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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

At this point, have you already chosen which gubernatorial candidate to vote for in the November elections?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 5

As of June 5, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

'Bagong Bayani'

Who said remittances from overseas Filipino workers would plunge due to the global financial crisis?

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'Kill Bill'

Actor David Carradine was found dead in Thailand. Police said he appeared to have hanged himself.

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FDA's certification of dialysis center's water system forged

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Health Secretary Pete T. Untalan told the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration certification of the reverse osmosis water system at the new dialysis center was "forged" by an individual previously connected with the U.S.-based Severn Trent.

Untalan

Severn Trent supplied the reverse osmosis water system unit to Saipan Ice,

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CRUISING HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Three inmates are being transported by a Department of Public Safety pickup truck Thursday afternoon along Beach Road. With the supervision of police and corrections officers, inmates perform community services that include cleanups of roadsides, beaches and other government property.

Tentative ruling shields some docs in Sablan's OGA lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has stated in a tentative ruling that some of the documents being sought by Rep. Tina Sablan from the Fitial administration would reveal Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's litigation strategy in his lawsuit against federalization and would violate attorney-client privilege.

Sablan

During Thursday's hearing, Wise-

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Watchdog for NMI retirees formed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A new group that aims to watch out for and help Commonwealth retirees is now registered as a nonprofit organization.

The Commonwealth Retirement Association has filed with the Registrar of Corporations a verified petition to grant them and their members a charter of incorporation as a nonprofit group.

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House OKs runoff election bill, 3 other measures

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By an 18-0 vote, the House of Representatives on Thursday passed the runoff election bill that the Senate passed with amendments on May 18.

Three other measures passed the House on Thursday, including the waiving of the two-year work experience for foreign nursing graduates at Northern Marianas College for them to work at private clinics in the CNMI.

House Bill 16-220, HS1, SD1, HD3, which provides for runoff election procedures and allows for the

See HOUSE on Page 4

From left, Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, Rep. Tina Sablan and Rep. Victor B. Hocog confer with their colleagues during a break at a House session on Capital Hill Thursday. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

CNMI seaport revenues continue to drop

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is seeing a continuous drop in its inbound and outbound cargoes at all its ports, according to Saipan seaport manager Mary Ann Q. Lizama.

Total inbound revenue tons in Fiscal Year 2009 posted a 19 percent loss on revenue tons compared to the previous fiscal year, based on CPA records.

From October 2007 to April 2008, she said the total inbound revenue tons was 227,883. From October 2008 to April 2009, the total came in at 183,483 revenue tons.

In April 2008 alone, inbound cargo totaled 31,333 revenue tons, as opposed to this April's 29,991 revenue tons. This, she said, reflects a 4 percent loss.

For outbound cargo, CPA posted a 50 percent loss from last year's 28,964 revenue tons, coming in at a total of 14,485 revenue tons.

"When you look at it on a monthly perspective, the month of April of 2008 posted a record revenue ton of 3,084 compared to a very significant 69 percent drop of 964 revenue tons for the month of April 2009," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Despite the loss in revenue tons for both inbound and outbound cargoes, Lizama said the tariff increase implemented in January this year made it possible for the CPA to meet its bond obligations.

At the same time, "the port of Saipan continues its efforts in controlling expenditures," she added.

Although she described the current numbers as "painful," the ports manager is optimistic.

"The numbers are painful when we narrow it down but I am still very optimistic about an economic turnaround…maybe not right now but in the foreseeable future," she said.

Records showed that the port of Saipan accommodated only 793 revenue tons of garment materials in the first seven months of the current fiscal year compared to 2,008 revenue tons in the same period last fiscal year.

Clothing, which remains the biggest outbound commodities accommodated at the port, also recorded only 1,517 revenue tons from October 2008 to April 2009 compared to same seven-month period in FY 2008, which was 13,983 revenue tons.

The CPA board was compelled to enforce on Jan. 14, 2009, a 90-percent increase in its terminal tariff to meet the 1.25 ratio requirement of the bond indenture.

Lizama said this increase is what's helping the agency meet and comply with the bond requirements despite the continuous decline in revenue.

CPA earlier disclosed that any further delay in cost recovery for any rates or fees would threaten the public welfare, with the specter of a default and acceleration of the balance of approximately $35 million.

NMC offers Korean language course

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their Korean language skills.

This is an intermediate conversational course designed to reinforce the fundamentals of the Korean language, as well as to improve students' proficiency in the Korean language. The course also focuses on developing listening skills, comprehension and vocabulary, as well as teaching cultural expressions in the Korean language.

The Intermediate Korean Language Development Course will begin on June 19 and end on July 28, 2009. The course will take place from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the NMC As Terlaje campus. The course fee is $60.

It is preferred that all interested individuals register before the start of the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class.

To register, or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call John Manalo 234-5498 extension 1010 or e-mail johnm@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

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Eight Saipan students named 2009 Byrd Honors scholars

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System named yesterday the eight students who have been selected to receive Robert C. Byrd honors scholarships this year.

The eight—Keith Flores Sablan, Terrence Babauta Duenas, Janina Maratita, Kenlyn Palmes Butters, BonnyLynn A. Cruz, Naomi DLG Benjamin, Loremel Aguelo Hocog, and Yvonne DLG Bennett—will each receive a four-year scholarship of $1,500 per year, for a total of $6,000.

The eight were selected based on their submitted essays; cumulative grade point averages, which ranged from 3.9 to 4.0; and recommendation letters from teachers.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the number of qualified applicants far exceeded the eight scholarship slots that the U.S. Department of Education made available to PSS this year.

Dr. Sablan said the CNMI needs the expertise each of these scholars will have acquired when they complete their studies.

Keith Flores Sablan is the son of Joseph D. and Benita F. Sablan of Capital Hill. A senior at Grace Christian Academy, Keith has been accepted to Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu, Hawaii. He plans to major in biochemistry as a premed course toward becoming a dermatologist.

Terrence Babauta Duenas is the son of Ronald M. Dulog and Ann Doris Babauta-Dulog of Kagman III. He is a senior at Kagman High School and has been accepted to Shoreline Community College in Shoreline, Washington where he will major in Engineering. Terrence plans to become an electrical engineer, following in the footsteps of his grandfather.

Janina Maratita is the daughter of Janet U. Maratita of San Antonio. A senior at Saipan Southern High School, she has been accepted to attend Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she will major in English and pre-law criminology. After graduation, Janinna plans on either attending law school or pursuing a career in either journalism or teaching on Saipan.

Kenlyn Palmes Butters, the daughter of Joseph and Feline Butters of Papago, is a senior at Kagman High School and plans on attending the University of Guam and will major in accounting and education.

BonnyLynn A. Cruz, the daughter of Patricia Aguon-Cruz of Kagman II, is a senior at Kagman High School and has been accepted to the Northern Marianas College, where she will major in health and education.

Naomi DLG Benjamin is the daughter of Nicholas W. and Elaine DLG Benjamin of As Matuis and is a senior at Kagman High School. She has been accepted to attend NMC and plans on majoring in education.

Loremel Aguelo Hocog, the son of Jesus and Genoveva Hocog of Kagman II, is a senior at Kagman High School and has been accepted to attend NMC. Loremel plans on majoring in liberal arts with a major in drama and mathematics.

Yvonne DLG Bennett, the daughter of Ambrose and Lillian Bennett of Kagman III, is a senior at Kagman High School and has been accepted to attend the University of Guam. She plans on majoring in business and culinary arts. Her plans after college include returning to Saipan and opening a bakery.

Immigration agents arrest alleged overstaying couple

Immigration agents arrested an alleged overstaying alien worker and her overstaying boyfriend in Sadog Tasi Thursday night.

Wei Wang, 31, and Daohang Zhang, 34, both Chinese, were brought to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a $1,000 cash bail each for the temporary release of the couple.

Inos ordered the respondents to appear in court on June 11 to explain why they should not be deported from the CNMI.

Immigration investigator John Peter stated in his report that Wang, a former garment worker, has extended her legal stay in the CNMI a year and two months. Zhang, on the other hand, is now overstaying for six months.

The investigator said Zhang entered CNMI on Nov. 1, 2008 using a short-term business entry permit. Peter said the permit expired the following month.

With respect to Wang, Peter said her nonresident worker's entry permit expired on March 3, 2008 and that she has no pending Labor case.

He said he, with the help of two Attorney General's Investigation Unit's investigators, arrested Zhang and Wang in Sadog Tasi on Thursday at 11:30pm after they failed to provide any valid labor or Immigration documentation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

19 lauded for commitment to NMI Teen Talk program

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Justo S. Quitugua (D-Saipan) pre-filed 19 House commemorative resolutions commending 19 individuals for their commitment to and participation in the CNMI Teen Talk program.

Teen Talk is a youth group that has been a part of the CNMI Public School System's Youth Development Program since 2001.

It promotes open communication among teens on issues such as health and HIV education, encourages them to protect their health, and advocates for the well-being of others.

Quitugua's House Commemorative Resolutions 16-72 to 16-90, pre-filed on June 2, also said that Teen Talk's mission is to help students develop a healthy lifestyle by fostering positive self-esteem and responsible decision making.

"Members of Teen Talk, composed of high school and Northern Marianas College students along with advisors, are not compensated for their hard work, but voluntarily contribute their time to the program because they feel that it is important to educate the community," Quitugua said.

Among the recipients of Quitugua's commemorative resolutions is Freddy Salavaria, who has been the Teen Talk advisor since 2007.

Quitugua also commends the following Teen Talk volunteers: Keala Peters, Kimberly Hofschneider, Noelani Pamela Ann McMahon, Tanya Ciara Dela Cruz, Yvette M. DLG. Bennett, Yvonne Marie DLG. Bennett, Kenlyn Butters, Sung Yul "Tommy" Baik, and Donovan-Jose Pinaula Castro.

Also being commended are Edwin L. Correa, Jhumil S. Esposo, Jaclyn Quitugua, Ray San Nicolas, Thomas T.J. Castro, Moon Hyo Lee, Monica Pangelinan, Loremel A. Hocog, and Kenneth Palec.

In the past eight years, Teen Talk has made a positive impact on the community by facilitating workshops on teen health issues for students from each of the five high schools, four junior high schools and eight elementary schools; facilitating workshops for parents and teachers from Rota, Tinian and Saipan; hosting a teen talk show on Marianas Cable Vision; and facilitating the Division of Youth Services' Annual Youth Summit.

Covenant removes illegal billboards

Covenant Party chair Gregorio M. Camacho on Wednesday directed the removal of all campaign billboards along the beach side of Beach Road.

Camacho directed the removal of political signs and billboards in order to comply with CNMI government regulations.

"Although I regret that our volunteers mistakenly placed the signs on the beach side, I thank the public for bringing this matter to our attention so that we could take prompt action to resolve the situation and comply with the law," said Camacho.

Camacho said he welcomes public feedback and urges all Covenant Party candidates and members to comply with all CNMI laws and regulations during this year's election cycle. ***(PR)***

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Tudela says he respects 24 cops' court action

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago Tudela said yesterday he respects the decision of 24 police officers to sue DPS for alleged discriminatory practices in promoting and hiring police officers.

"I cannot stop them. That's their prerogative because they believe there's malpractice taking place," said Tudela in an interview with *Saipan Tribune.*

The commissioner, however, emphasized that he is not the one who created the "mess" as the controversy occurred during the term of then DPS commissioner Rebecca Warfield.

He said the former DPS administration promoted a police officer to sergeant, but there are more Police Officer 3s who have been in the same rank for over 10 years now.

Tudela said under his administration an officer gets a promotion if he or she is eligible.

"I practice fairness here in the department," he said.

He recalled that in 2005 he promoted with accompanying salary increases over 100 police officers and firefighters who have been in their respective ranks for10 years or more.

Tudela said there was no problem with that promotion because it was done properly.

He said the officers who joined the lawsuit have not been placed on administrative leave.

Doing so, he said, would only result in more overtime costs for DPS.

Tudela said he already talked with the Office of the Attorney General to discuss how they can settle the lawsuit.

The case appears to be getting serious, with 14 more police officers joining Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero in his lawsuit. There are now a total of 24 officers, including Deleon Guerrero, in that lawsuit.

HOUSE

From Page 1

counting of absentee ballots on the day of election, now heads back to the Senate.

House Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said the immediate passage of the bill by the Senate and its signing into law by the governor will provide the Election Commission time to promulgate the regulations in time for the November 2009 gubernatorial elections.

"If it becomes law, it will be the first time in CNMI history that a runoff election is required if no candidate for governor gets more than half of the votes cast," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune.*

With at least four gubernatorial teams in the upcoming polls, he said the possibility of a runoff election is "more than likely."

"More likely, the votes will be spread out and no one will get more than 50 percent of all the votes cast," he added.

During Thursday's session, three floor amendments were offered and adopted.

One of them was Deleon Guerrero's amendment that adds a subsection to the runoff elections for governor and lieutenant governor: "To be counted, an absentee ballot shall be postmarked not later than the date of the runoff election and be received by the Commission not later than fourteen days after the date of the runoff election."

Rep. David Apatang (Ind-Saipan) also offered an amendment to the second sentence of subsection B under section 6509 on the runoff elections. The new sentence reads, "The candidates who receive more than half of the votes cast and counted in the runoff shall be declared the winner." The original sentence used "majority" instead of "more than half" of the votes cast.

HB 16-220 said it is necessary to establish runoff election procedures as mandated by the ratification of House Legislative Initiative 15-16, which amends Article III Section 4 of the Constitution to require a runoff election for governor and lieutenant governor if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for that office.

Approximately 73 percent of total votes cast during the 2007 general election were in support of the initiative.

The bill also mandates the counting of absentee ballots on election day to allow for more time for the transitional period of the governor-elect and lieutenant governor-elect.

Three other bills passed

By a 19-0 vote, the House also passed Rep. Justo Quitugua's (D-Saipan) House Bill 16-208, which waives the two-year work experience for nonresident nursing graduates of NMC who are seeking employment at private medical clinics.

Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan, during a hearing on the Department of Public Health's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget yesterday, welcomed the passage of the bill, saying it will help fill up needed nursing positions.

Currently, only DPH is allowed to hire foreign nursing graduates of NMC without a two-year work experience.

The House also passed on a 19-0 vote House Bill 16-188, mandating the Department of Public Safety to remove dead animals from public highways and roads, and thereafter contact the mayor's office for its proper disposal.

Also passed on a 19-0 vote was Rep. Rosemond Santos's (R-Saipan) House Bill 16-179 HD1 SD1, amending certain provisions of the Probation Reform Act of 2006.

WATCHDOG

From Page 1

Listed as its officers are William R. Barrineau, Juan M. Sablan, Sapuro J. Rayphand, and Oscar Camacho. Barrineau will serve as the association's chairman.

An eight-member board of director was also established to guide its officers in its mandated function to look after the retirees' welfare.

Based on documents, CRA is a membership organization that brings together persons interested in the public retirement system and other retirement opportunities in the CNMI.

Its members, the association said, have gathered together to advance the common interest of members of the Defined Benefit Retirement Plan.

Saipan Tribune learned that its membership is open to those who are included in the DB plan of the Retirement Fund, subject to a membership fee that has yet to be established by the board.

The association will appoint or recommend one or more of its members to serve as a member of the CNMI Retirement Fund board of trustees.

Listed as the association's board of directors are Barrineau, Sablan, Rayphand, Camacho, Donna J. Cruz, Juan I. Tenorio, Joseph Palacios, and Agnes McPhetres.

'Watchdog'

McPhetres said yesterday that the association will serve as the voice of retirees in all matters and issues that affect them.

"We will serve as their spokespersons to protect the Fund's interest… and will work hand in hand with the Fund trustees because we believe that with all the issues happening now, the Fund trustees may want some assistance from an independent body for advice and recommendations," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

"We will serve as the watchdog for our retirees," she added.

For its initial budget, the association will be charging $2 per member at each meeting.

When asked what motivated them to form the CRA, McPhetres said: "We have seen a lot of things not being done for retirees. If we will continue to allow the government not to share, the Fund will be broke in three years…so we need to take a stand for our retirees."

On behalf of her fellow retirees, McPhetres commended the Fund's board of trustees for its firm decision to press on with its court battle against the central government for its unpaid employer contributions to the Fund. The Fund says the CNMI government owes it over $200 million.

A nonprofit group called the Commonwealth Association of Retired Persons was established in previous years but this was dissolved after being inactive for many years.

TENTATIVE

From Page 1

man ruled that after reviewing certain records that were turned over to him by Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, his tentative ruling would be to order the release of billing invoice summaries, voucher payments, and government account ledgers that deal with the federalization lawsuit.

The judge, however, stated that he would withhold the law firm's detailed billing statements that he said would reveal litigation strategy and violate attorney-client privilege.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that Wiseman announced in his tentative ruling that the records she requested are indeed exempt from disclosure under the Open Government Act.

Sablan said the judge stated that the records are relevant to a pending controversy, and would not be discoverable under pretrial court rules.

The lawmaker said she asked Wiseman at the hearing to consider that information related to funding sources and amounts paid using public funds are not relevant to the facts at issue in the 903 litigation (federalization lawsuit).

Sablan also noted that she submitted quite a few cases that support a finding that attorney fees and engagement letters with a law firm are indeed discoverable.

Sablan said assuming the exemption applies, under the OGA the court may order the disclosure of record if it finds that no vital government function or personal privacy rights would be compromised.

Government lawyer Brad Huesman, who appeared at the hearing for Fitial and Inos, objected to the release of any of the records. He, however, conceded the release of records showing amounts paid and any documents generated internally by the CNMI government, but not records from the U.S.-based law firm of Jenner and Block showing amounts billed.

Fitial hired Jenner and Block to represent CNMI in the lawsuit against the federalization of local immigration.

Huesman insisted that showing both types of records would compromise the CNMI government's position in the litigation.

He said the showing of records might show that the CNMI government has not been keeping up with its payments and may be in arrears, and that if the judge ordered the release of billing records, he would file an appeal.

Sablan argued that she could accept the withholding of detailed billing statements that show litigation strategy, but she did not see how any vital government function could be compromised by releasing the billing summaries.

Sablan noted that there is a vital public interest involved in disclosing how much taxpayers have been billed, how much taxpayers have paid out, and which public accounts the money came from.

"Moreover, if we're paying out less than what we're being billed, could there be someone else paying for the difference, some other client, and shouldn't the public know that too?" she asked.

Alternatively, the lawmaker said, taxpayers have a right to know if they are paying for a lawsuit that the government really can't afford, and if the government is incurring debt as a result.

"Since when does the government have a right to keep secrets from taxpayers about how taxpayer funds have been spent?" she asked.

Huesman stated that as soon as the federalization lawsuit is settled, all the records that Sablan is asking for will be released but Sablan emphasized that there is no timing exception in the OGA.

Sablan sued Fitial and Inos to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization.

Huesman argued that forcing the CNMI to release sensitive information that the federal government is not entitled to contravene the purpose of a statute that deals with litigation exceptions to the OGA.

FDA'S

From Page 1

which was one of the subcontractors of AIC Marianas, the main contractor for the construction of the new dialysis building in Garapan.

Saipan Ice's sales supervisor Lito Dizon and AIC Marianas project engineer Ding Lacap separately said in telephone interviews that they're not aware of the forgery and that nobody had told them about the issues that just came about.

Medicare requires the CNMI Department of Public Health to have an FDA-certified reverse osmosis water system for it to operate the new dialysis center, which has yet to open three years after its construction was completed in 2006.

"We found out just a few days ago that the reverse osmosis system is not FDA-certified," Untalan told the legislative committee chaired by Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) during yesterday's hearing on DPH's Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

Yumul said he's surprised to hear about the forged FDA certification.

$22 million facility

Untalan said they plan to open the new dialysis center in August, but they will instead use the reverse osmosis system at the old DPH building.

"The whole project cost $22 million," Untalan told *Saipan Tribune.*

At the budget hearing, Yumul asked whether DPH would request the House Ways and Means Committee for additional funding for the new facility to operate in August.

At that point, Untalan told lawmakers about the recent discovery of the forged FDA certification of the reverse osmosis system.

He said a DPH contractor that was fixing their water filtration system checked the reverse osmosis unit and looked into its FDA certification. Untalan said DPH asked Severn Trent itself for the certification, and that's when the U.S.-based company told them about the forgery.

A Medicare team visited DPH last year to check whether the new dialysis center meets federal standards, including whether the reverses osmosis system has FDA certification.

"My concern is that my office did receive from sources out there that it [new dialysis center] cannot be opened because of some equipment that have been installed that don't meet federal requirements," Yumul said in an interview.

He said the FDA certification forgery is "extremely disturbing."

But Yumul said he's thankful for Untalan for coming out frankly and truthfully about the issues surrounding the reverse osmosis system and the new dialysis system.

The initial contract for the construction of the new dialysis center alone was $5 million but by the time the building was completed by AIC Marianas in 2006, the amount had ballooned to $12 million, mostly because of change orders as a result of design changes. The project's contracting agency was the Department of Public Works.

DPH has been giving target dates for the new dialysis center's opening but this was always pushed back, mainly because of needed Medicare certification, as well as lack of funds to fully operate and staff the facility.

At DPH's Commonwealth Health Center, there are some 100 dialysis patients, from only 44 patients in 1996.

DPH said CHC has only 14 dialysis stations, while the new facility can accommodate up to 24 stations.

"The whole idea is to move all the dialysis stations to the new building," Untalan said.

Besides the facility, CHC just recently lost its only nephrologist or kidney doctor.

Leadership Memorial Courtyard to rise in CK

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The first Leadership Memorial Courtyard will rise in Chalan Kanoa as part of effort to revive the area as the traditional capital of Saipan.

The Saipan Municipal Council, which is spearheading the revitalization and enhancement program, released this week a detailed plan and design of the project—also known as the CK Kios-ku Project—to be constructed across the U.S. Post Office and the municipal council building.

The kios-ku (Japanese term for roundhouse) is considered an icon of the political transformation of the Mariana Islands District under the U.N. Trusteeship, as administered by the United States.

The plaza used to be the center for party leaders to voice their opinions on issues during that period.

"Indeed, the plaza was an outside classroom for local politicians, where local political neophytes and seasoned leaders alike learned how to capture the hearts and minds of the local electorates," according to the four-page notes explaining the project.

The 10th Saipan Municipal Council chaired by Antonia Tudela asked the Department of Public Lands in March 2008 to issue a grant of public domain for the kios-ku project.

After a year of discussions by the council and its community partners, the design of the project was completed and in January 2009, DPL officially designated the lot in Chalan Kanoa for the memorial site.

The 2,333 square meters lot will accommodate public parking, a visitors' center, concession facilities, relaxation areas, and display of local leaders' names etched in granite.

There will also be flagpoles, water drainage, a ponding basin, public restrooms, and a pedestrian crosswalk to and from the Post Office.

According to the plan, the project will not only capture Saipan's political history but also depict local leadership during the pre-Commonwealth period up to the present.

Once completed, the area will be used for public events such as Saturday flea markets, Sabalu farmers market, periodic public concerts, dance competitions, Christmas caroling, or Christmas light competitions.

H1N1 cases now in over 50 US states

Confirmed cases of H1N1 flu virus have spread to over 50 states in the U.S., including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, according to the latest health update from the Department of Public Health. Seventeen deaths have been reported in the U.S.

DPH issues its health update every Monday, Wednesday and Friday following the outbreak of the new H1N1 flu virus that has already killed 117 people around the world.

DPH said there is no confirmed H1N1 case in the CNMI yet despite the continuing increase of countries affected.

As of June 3, the total number of persons that have been confirmed with the flu totaled 19,273 in 66 countries.

More than half of these cases are in the U.S. with a total of 10,053, or over 2,000 more in a span of two days.

The CNMI remains under pandemic alert level 5 as declared by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DPH said there is no available vaccine yet for the F1N1 flu virus but CDC said it would be available soon.

DPH continues to conduct active flu surveillance in the CNMI. Patients seen at the Commonwealth Health Center clinics, Marianas Medical Center, the Medical Associates of the Pacific clinic, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center that meet the Influenza-like Illness clinical case definition are tested with the rapid flu test. All tests, regardless of the result are sent to a laboratory in San Antonio, Texas for further testing.

Clinical ILI (Flu) case definition:

- Fever 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit and cough or sore throat or
- Clinical or radiological evidence of acute non-bacterial pneumonia.

According to CDC, the most common H1N1 flu symptoms include fever (average temperature of 102.02 degrees Fahrenheit), cough, and shortness of breath. A high percentage of confirmed H1N1 cases seem to be having vomiting and diarrhea.

According to CDC, H1N1 is thought to spread in the same way that regular seasonal flu viruses spread; mainly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the virus.

The largest number of novel H1N1 confirmed and probable cases are occurring in people from the ages of 5 to 24; many are school-aged children.

People who are at high risk of serious seasonal flu-related complications include:

- Children younger than 5 years old
- Pregnant women
- People with chronic medical conditions, and
- People 65 years and older.

High risk groups, especially pregnant women and people with chronic medical conditions, are being urged to take precautions, be aware of warning signs; and seek medical care sooner rather than later. ***(DPH)***

Ethics presentation available to govt employees

The Office of the Public Auditor said it will be conducting an ethics presentation on Tinian on June 8, 2009 and on Rota on June 15 to 16, 2009. The presentation will cover all aspects of the Government Ethics Act to any government agency, group of employees, or candidates and their campaign officials who are interested in learning more about the Government Ethics Act.

The presentation, which is about two hours in length, covers a range of subjects including "Political Activity," "Gifts and Gratuities," "Conflict of Interest," "Complaints on Ethics Violations," and "Filing Financial Disclosure Statements." This presentation will enable government employees and others to not only gain a broader in-depth working knowledge of the Ethics Act, but will afford them the opportunity to ask those questions they always wanted to ask but haven't.

If an agency, group of employees, or candidates and their campaign officials are interested in the Ethics Presentation, contact Wilma Atalig at the Office of the Public Auditor at 322-6481. ***(OPA)***

CNMI gears up for apprenticeship action clinic

The CNMI will be hosting a U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Action Clinic on June 17, 2009 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall. Key workforce state partners, government and industry leaders have been invited to this event.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 encourages State ARRA 2009 recipients to integrate in their workforce talent development system the Registered Apprenticeship Program, which provides industry recognized standards and credentials.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Northern Marianas College recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the USDOL Hawaii-Pacific Office of Apprenticeship for the implementation of the USDOL Registered Apprenticeship Program.

CNMI public laws 14-54, PL 15-5 and PL 10-66 paves the way for the implementation of the program.

Al Valles, USDOL State Director, Office of Apprenticeship Hawaii-Pacific, will provide an overview of the U.S. Registered Apprenticeship Program, School to Apprenticeship, and Registered Apprenticeship. Valles has jurisdiction over the apprenticeship programs of Hawaii, Guam, Palau, FSM, American Samoa, CNMI and Marshall Islands.

Guest speaker will include Maria Connelley, director, Guam Department of Labor, presenting on Learning Continuum, Aligning Workforce Training Initiatives and Creating the Pipeline from Secondary Education & Training to Postsecondary Education & Training as well as Leveraging Registered Apprenticeship Program with other Federal/State funding sources.

The clinic will be facilitated and moderated by Terry Benewich, Consultant Coffey & Associates. Benewich, a graduate of Lewis University worked for 33 years in the Department of Labor's Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, was involved in major initiatives for the Apprenticeship Program including revision of regulations, programs to encourage women to enter the apprenticeship trades, coordinated apprenticeship and workplace training programs under the Workforce Investment Act.

WIA and NMC took the lead in applying for the CNMI and received approval for a technical assistance grant funded by the USDOL Employment & Training Administration to replicate the Action Clinic previously conducted in three other U.S. States.

This event will be recorded by NMC and will be uploaded to the USDOL ETA Community of Practice website. ***(PR)***

Sr. Remedios schools promotes 41 to first grade

The Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center promoted 41 Kindergarten students to first grade during a commencement ceremony Wednesday night at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

This year's theme was "Journey Beyond the Rainbow."

School principal Martha Ramarui, along with the school's officials, conferred diplomas and certificates to students before their friends and families.

The recipients of excellence awards included Shane Ada, Tessa Jo Sablan, Raymalyn Guanlao, Maaya Sato, Ariannna Kapileo, Coloma Castro, Kyana Reyes, Jenisha Dubrall, Cierlyn Ricafort, Victoria Dela Cruz, Penelope Sablan, Elaina Santos, Reuben Tomboc, Karl Untalan, Nelson Batallones, Lee Castro Jr., Maria Ayuyu, Sinahi Cepeda, James Salalila, Brandee Hunter, Sidney Sablan, Noah Mesa, and Trenton Deleon Guerrero. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

MONETH G. DEPOSA

The promoted Kindergarten students of Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center sing the class farewell song during Wednesday night's commencement rites at the Multi-Purpose Center.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to 4 CMC, Div. 7, Section 7306 (i) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Oceania Insurance Corporation is making its intention known of decreasing the company's paid-up capital and surplus in accordance with this statute.

LAURIE STURGES
Manager
Oceania Insurance Corporation
1st Flr. Chong's Bldg.
Pale Arnold Rd., Gualo Rai
PMB 557 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Coastal Resources Management Office hereby reminds the general public of the regulation that is in effect that any and all signs posted along roadways in an Area of Particular Concern, such as the shoreline, wetlands and port & industrial areas, must have a CRM permit prior to such posting.

Beginning June 15, 2009 all such signs, whether for political campaign or otherwise, that are not CRM permitted will be removed as litter.

Please call 664-8300 or visit the CRM office at 2nd Floor Morgen's Building, Beach Road, San Jose, should you have questions or comments about this reminder.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

GM's new owner

On behalf of all of us, President Obama has just bought 60 percent of a "new," post-bankruptcy General Motors. The price was $30 billion, in addition to the $20 billion that Washington had already sunk into the firm. Let's slam the doors and kick the tires.

On paper, the nationalized entity is leaner and more competitive. It will shed half of its eight brands, slash a third of the hourly work force and halt production at 14 plants. The company's overgrown dealer network will be pruned. Most of GM's unsustainable debt will be converted into equity. According to the president's auto task force, GM, which has been losing money for half a decade, can break even in a 10-million-vehicles-per-year U.S. market. Right now, sales are running at 9.5 million a year.

The task force considers this the best possible deal, given the vested interests of the various stakeholders and the dire consequences for the feeble U.S. economy of the alternative—sudden liquidation. The downsizing plan is, indeed, more thorough than the company, its creditors or the United Auto Workers had been willing to countenance previously.

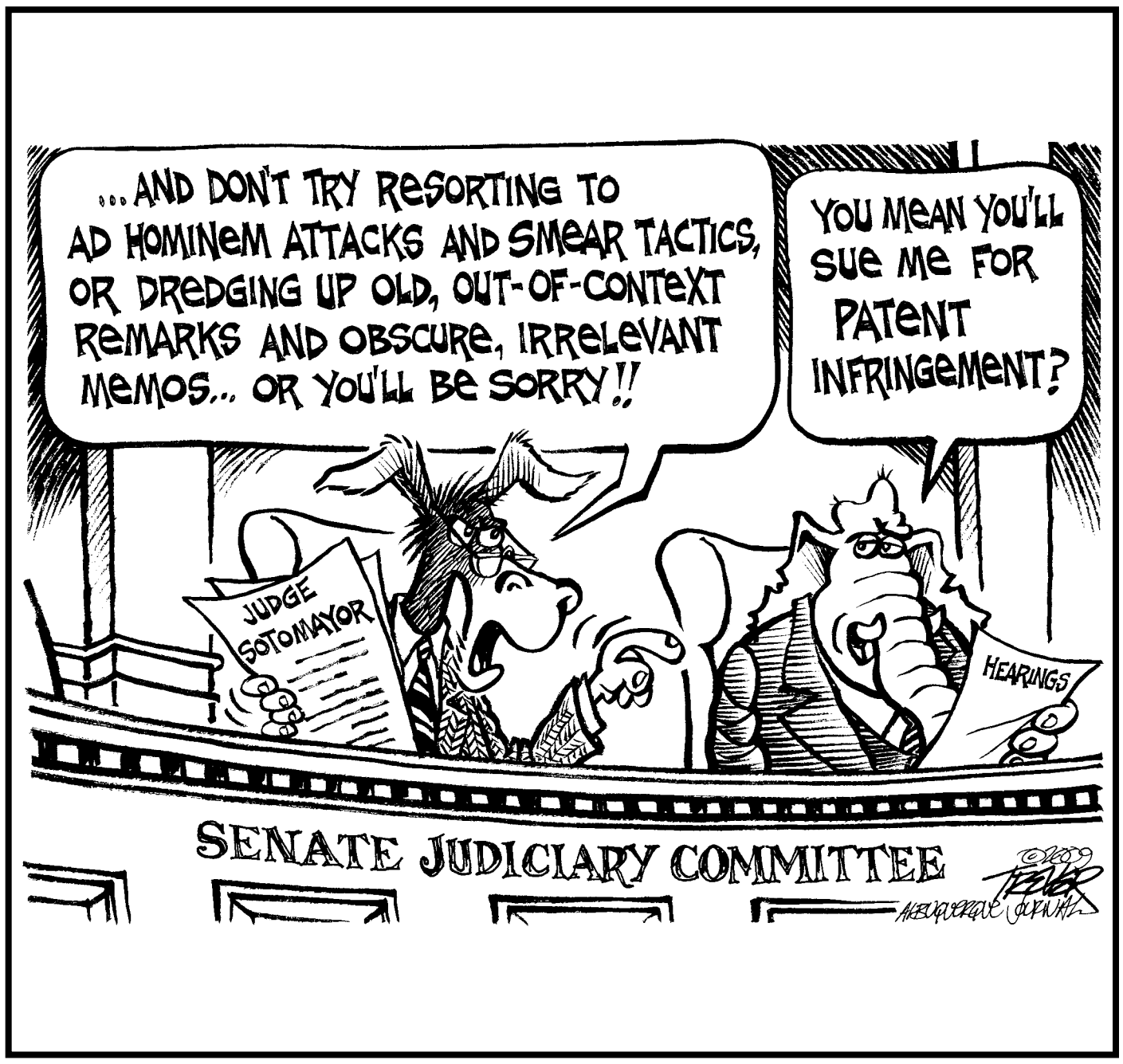
Still, it is not quite the radical change that a neutral bankruptcy judge might have allowed. Fourteen closed plants is two fewer than the task force itself initially wanted, and three of them will not be definitively shut down but "idled." This may give certain auto towns a measure of (probably false) hope. Meanwhile, GM will pay maintenance and other costs. The UAW took a big risk in converting much of its $20 billion retiree health fund claim into stock; it trimmed benefits for retirees, and more cuts are probably coming. But the UAW fund will still get $585 million of the company's cash per year, in the form of a dividend on preferred stock.

Other union concessions were "painful" only by the peculiar standards of Big Three labor relations: At a time when some American workers are facing stiff pay cuts, UAW workers gave up their customary paid holiday on Easter Monday and their right to overtime pay after less than 40 hours per week. They still get health benefits that are far better than those received by many American families upon whose tax money GM jobs now depend. Ditto for UAW hourly wages, though according to the task force, GM's labor costs are now within "shooting distance" of those at nonunion plants run by Honda, Toyota and other foreign firms. Cumbersome UAW work rules have only been tweaked.

Also worrisome was the strong-arming of the company's bondholders, who got far less equity in return for their money than the UAW, the president's political ally. The administration wants to spin GM back to the private sector as soon as possible. But private investors may have been durably scared by the union's display of clout. Indeed, the UAW boasted to its members that it blocked a plan to build GM cars in China and "negotiated new opportunities for UAW involvement in future business decisions."

The ultimate question is whether a state-owned GM can consistently make cars that Americans want to buy, something a privately owned GM has not been doing sufficiently for many years. Ideally, the federal government would make GM's job easier by staying out of business decisions, as Mr. Obama has promised. In practice, the political manipulation of the company has probably only just begun; Democratic Rep. Eliot L. Engel, N.Y, for example, has declared that the government should require GM to install "flex fuel" technology in its cars. If GM still isn't profitable enough to attract private investment a couple of years from now, the pressure will be intense to shovel even more public money into it. Administration officials say they hope and expect that this $30 billion for GM will be the last. But they don't promise, because they can't.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post


...AND DON'T TRY RESORTING TO AD HOMINEM ATTACKS AND SMEAR TACTICS, OR DREDGING UP OLD, OUT-OF-CONTEXT REMARKS AND OBSCURE, IRRELEVANT MEMOS... OR YOU'LL BE SORRY!!
YOU MEAN YOU'LL SUE ME FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT?
JUDGE SOTOMAYOR
HEARINGS
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

State of the Commonwealth Address

Editor's Note: The following is the text of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's State of the Commonwealth Address, which he delivered on May 27, 2009, at the House of Representatives' chamber on Capital Hill.

Last of a five-part series

By BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

A global economic downturn and weakness in tourism

In the midst of these pressing internal challenges, we are also faced with a global economic downturn, a Japanese recession, a devaluation of the Korean Won, reduced flight capacity, and a U.S stock market collapse. These are difficult economic times for many places around the world, especially the United States, which is still reeling from a credit crisis, a mortgage and housing crisis, a recession, high unemployment, the collapse of big banks, and the bankruptcy of major U.S. automakers. The CNMI is not immune to these global economic developments. We are also affected. We are not the only jurisdiction facing harsh economic realities.

Conclusion: Highlights and unfinished business

As difficult as our financial challenges have been, we remain resilient. We have met these challenges with considerable success. We have successfully managed the collapse of our entire garment industry and successfully resolved labor cases and repatriated garment workers with minimal disruptions.

We have weathered the perfect financial storm over the past three and a half years and we are not about to give up. In moments like these, we cannot overemphasize the necessity of stability and continuity of leadership.

Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos and I still have much work to be done. We have more challenges to meet and more opportunities to pursue, including federal stimulus funding and the much anticipated regional military buildup.

We have received ARRA grant notification of a total amount of $32.5 million and we anticipate receiving an additional $4.4 million under the Federal Highway Administration and $1.3 million through WIA. We anticipate a total amount of $38 million in additional federal funding and the CNMI has applied for a $2.6 million grant under the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program administered by the Department of Justice, which should provide us with additional law enforcement personnel to adequately meet our public safety needs. We are also looking forward to receiving between $44 million to $67 million in federal stabilization funds from the U.S. Department of Education, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Interior, as authorized by the U.S. Department of Education.

We have also received $891,000 through the Department of Defense's Department of Veteran's Affairs to establish a veteran's clinic to serve more than 1,000 of our valued veterans.

Over the past year, the Water Task Force has completed seven major federally funded projects to address the water shortage on Saipan. We have invested nearly $8 million in our water system. Many Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, San Antonio, and Garapan residents now enjoy 24-hour water service. We have improved our water storage. We are constructing new water wells. In addition to federal CIP funds, the Water Task Force has secured more than $1 million in new project funding from FEMA and HUD. The Water Task Force will have new or ongoing projects amounting to some $5.69 million this year.

We still have promising Korean investments to realize, including the completion of the Kumho Asiana Lao Lao Bay Resort, the Flame Sako project, and the Neo Goldwings Paradise project, which is scheduled to break ground on Tinian next month.

We recently issued 429 homestead lots on Tinian and by the end of this week we will issue another 150 homestead lots for Rota.

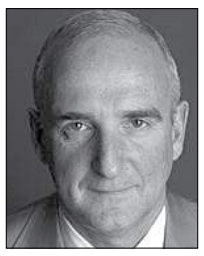
We have committed the resources to improve conditions at adult and juvenile correctional facilities, including detention facilities in Rota and Tinian. We have implemented policies and procedures for safe operations and for the protection of detainees

See STATE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Indochina dreaming

By ROGER COHEN
The New York Times



DALAT, Vietnam—In 1898, the governor general of Indochina, and future French president, Paul Doumer, set out his vision of a retreat in the highlands of Vietnam that would offer morose Gallic colonizers a respite from the sweltering coast and a taste of "la douce France."

What Doumer sought was a spot in the "high and salubrious plateaus upon which Europeans could find a vivifying and temperate climate." The result was this hill town—or hill station as the British put it over in the subcontinent—with its golf course, strawberries and a Riviera-style hotel.

A 1932 manual at the hotel, now the Dalat Palace, stipulated: "Domestics in contact with visitors must have a complete mastery of their trade, and speak sufficiently good French."

Mais oui.

It's hard to find anyone who speaks French in Vietnam these days—the scooter-propelled youth prefer English—and it's impossible, in this space, to chronicle the twists of Dalat's fate over the past century. Suffice to say a victorious Ho Chi Minh banned golf as bourgeois in the 1970s, only for the Communist-capitalist elite of today to consign that diktat to history's trash hea

But, no, that doesn't quite suffice, for there's a story here of baroque intrigue in which colonial France meets Kingsburg, California. Allow me to explain.

The Dalat Palace, high-ceilinged and airy, today affects a kitschy, faux-French air with its Toulouse-Lautrec reproductions and claw-foot bath tubs. Its least pretentious corner is Larry's Bar, where a Hockney-like portrait of said Larry hangs, a man of indeterminate age and high forehead, in jeans and black T-shirt, gazing out through oversized shades.

The man in question is Larry Hillblom, who merited a brief obituary in The New York Times when his World War II-era seaplane disappeared in the Pacific Ocean off Saipan in 1995, but scarcely a line before or since. That's a pity: He merits a book.

Hillblom, a native of Kingsburg, is the "H" in DHL, the express-delivery company he co-founded in 1969 after noting, as an impoverished law student at the University of California, Berkeley, that he could make a buck ferrying legal documents in need of urgent execution from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

That trivial aperçu turned out, in the best American tradition, to be worth billions of dollars to him and other shareholders.

With DHL, Hillblom challenged the U.S. postal monopoly. Behind its rapid growth was his winning intuition about globalization. In fact, Hillblom never saw a regulation he didn't want to overturn or an oversight he didn't exploit. Anarchy did not so much touch as inhabit him.

After he retreated, for tax reasons, to Saipan in 1981, Hillblom took to flying without a license. A first crash, in 1991, survived with head injuries, led him to judge the chances of a second infinitesimal. Asked about the crash's consequences, he deadpanned:

"When you're not licensed, you're not supposed to fly. That's it. There is no follow-up!"

But life specializes in follow-ups—even when, four years later, your plane disappears into the Pacific, your body is never found, your will leaves everything to a charitable foundation, and you have no wife or acknowledged offspring.

I'll get to that. But before his watery "Hasta la vista," Hillblom had found one more regulation to overturn here in Vietnam.

Arriving in a rundown Dalat in the early 1990s, with a U.S. embargo in place, he used an overseas holding company to invest over $100 million. When asked by the U.S. Justice Department what he was up to, he scrawled a four-letter expletive over the letter. The revamped hotel, now run by France's Accor Group, reopened just before his death.

A death that proved no more than a mise-en-scène: Hillblom has had an extravagant afterlife.

Its principal source proved to be his vigorous taste for young, often very young Asian women. Several—from Micronesia, Vietnam, the Philippines—stepped forward to say Hillblom fathered their children. A paternity suit ensued, involving stealthy quests for Hillblom's DNA—his bathroom was mysteriously scoured with acid after his death and his every possession buried—and years of transcontinental litigation.

"He cut a wide swathe through the Pacific," Barry Israel, a lawyer who represented Junior Larry Hillblom, the oldest of four children ultimately recognized, told me. Each of the penniless Asian kids received about $50 million, after tax, from the $600 million Hillblom estate.

Junior, however, is now suing Israel and other lawyers. He thinks they took too much. Money does drive people nuts.

Absent a book, Alexis Spraic, 27, an American moviemaker, has made an excellent, just-released documentary on Hillblom called "Shadow Billionaire." I asked her what she made of her subject: "Some people find him despicable, but I couldn't have made the movie if I did."

I'm with Spraic. Hillblom laughed at life, one protracted guffaw, an achievement that outweighs his flaws. I imagine him still laughing in death.

A portrait of Doumer, assassinated in 1932, should go up beside Hillblom's in Larry's Bar: Colonialist and Californian, governor and gambler, unlikely pair, bound by dreams and fate, even if they never got to play 18 holes together.

Letters to the Editor

Open letter to the powers that be

At the outset, let me extend my sincerest apology to the Charfauros family for the humiliation and disappointment they had to endure on Memorial Day.

It is beyond imagination that Rota's hero, the late Joe Jr.'s memory was put in the back burner over political agenda. Venessa was right—Joe Jr. is the only service member from Rota to have given the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. How can any leader, organization or citizen of Rota ignore this honorable deed is beyond comprehension.

I know exactly how they must have felt for I had an experience returning from a recent medical trip in Honolulu. When boarding was announced, the agent first recognized the World War II veterans group and everyone cheered them on. Then the active-duty passengers were recognized, again, everyone cheered them on. The elites and so on were next. It was a moving experience because for the first time, the public recognized the sacrifices the members of the armed services are performing on behalf of the country. At the same time, I felt put down and forgotten because as a Vietnam veteran, we returned home through the back door. So yes, I feel sympathy for my friend Joe Sr., his wife Annie and families. God bless you all and may the Lord have mercy on our hero.

My question is, where were the Rota legislative delegation that enacted the change of name? Wouldn't it be appropriate if the renaming was memorialized on Memorial Day by the sponsors of the change? Doesn't our hero deserve proper recognition instead of just on paper? Was the delegation afraid to answer to their unilateral action, as usual? While your intention was noble (hopefully), consultation with others who might be offended by your action would have been a prudent show of leadership. In changing the name of the Veterans Memorial Park, you have, in effect alienated all other veterans from using the park. Since Joe Jr. was a police officer prior to entering the Army, perhaps the proper thing to do was name the DPS building after him.

As for the leaders of the Rota Veterans Organization, how can you guys let this slip through the crack and then complain after the fact? In the real world, command authority will be relieved of their command due to this humongous neglect. Where will the veterans feel comfortable to congregate, now that their park has been realigned? Doesn't the organizational by-laws require re-election? How long has the present leadership been in office and what kind of programs have they implemented? Shouldn't there be a watchdog for legislation such as this? Like I said, in the real world, in this situation, either the leadership resigns or gets busted. Only on Rota do we witness such an outrage.

I agree that the Veterans Memorial Park should have remained as is for *all* our veterans; and as mentioned, the DPS building would have been the prudent choice. However, I disagree with the insensitivity of everyone in failing to honor our fallen hero, Joe Jr., on the day specially dedicated to him. Only on Rota!

Andy M. Ramos
via e-mail

A gamble for governor

Given the history of gambling in the CNMI and the many citizens who participate in the gaming industry plus the number of candidates for governor and it is easy to see that the election for governor will be a gamble for many voters, unless they do their homework on the candidates. Too often I have heard people say, "Give so-and-so a chance," which tells me they are just trying someone new just because he or she is new. This is not always the right solution. Have you ever bought something new and it didn't work like you thought it would? You wished you had kept the old one instead of buying a replacement. This is the same phenomenon that many voters are facing—trying something new or sticking with the old and experienced leader.

There are only two candidates with experience running for governor and the other two will definitely be first-time governors if elected. In the last election for governor, the people chose to go for someone new who promised complete prosperity but they didn't have the experience. I'm sure people with common sense realize that experience is one of the most important ingredients for selecting a governor which is why experience is the most important concern when choosing employees and in the selection of leadership.

There will be four people running for governor again in this election and the chances of picking the right person are three to one, which tells me we will be gambling again and people really need to do their homework to make the right choice or we will be repeating the "get rid of the governor scenario" again. It doesn't take a political scientist to recognize the fact that some if not many people will be literally gambling when they vote if they don't do their homework. I'm also sure that some of the candidates are betting on the vote being split to such a large degree that they can win by the slightest of margins. This is why people need to do their homework to avoid a runoff, which is now required by law. If the same voting pattern from the last election prevails, I can easily predict a runoff between the top two candidates to get the majority vote.

We need experience at the helm of the CNMI in 2010. We can't just "think" the person we are voting for can do the job. We need to know with a high level of assurance that they have a plan and the capacity to carry out that plan. We need a governor with experience at being the governor, given the critical state of the CNMI because there is just too much at stake for the voters to make a mistake.

I realize like everyone else that the two candidates with experience have made mistakes but more importantly I know they have learned their lessons from their mistakes—lessons that we need to capitalize upon and not run away from. We have all made mistakes and everyone deserves a second chance. In the words of Scripture, "Let those among you who have not sinned cast the first stone." We all fit into the category of not being perfect and we all deserve a second chance. I truly believe the CNMI's best hope is the candidate with the best plan and the best political relationship and experience at working with the feds. The only question for the people to really answer is "which candidate deserves a second chance?" Do your homework and we will all be winners in the next election if we don't gamble.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

STATE

From Page 10

and staff. The U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Immigration Customs Enforcement have recognized the Commonwealth's facilities within all of Micronesia. We are making progress on the federal consent decree.

Over the past fiscal year, we received some $27 million in Interior and FEMA grant awards. In 2008 alone, we processed $16 million in CIP draw-downs through our CIP Program Office. We completed fourteen CIP projects, seven FEMA projects, and several Community Development Block Grant-funded projects.

In three years, we liquidated some $60 million in federal CIP funds against a CIP allotment of some $33 million. In 2006, we drew down $25.5 million. In 2007, we drew down $18.4 million, and in 2008, we drew down $16.3 million. We liquidated $27 million of unspent funds from the previous administration.

We are looking forward to the investment commitment of Allegiance Capital and the planned Saipan Shipyard project to take advantage of military build-up opportunities and create jobs for our residents.

Lt. Governor Eloy Inos and I still have much unfinished business. We need to continue addressing our primary challenges and complete the job of meeting our economic recovery mission in spite of the obstacles in our way.

Thank you.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

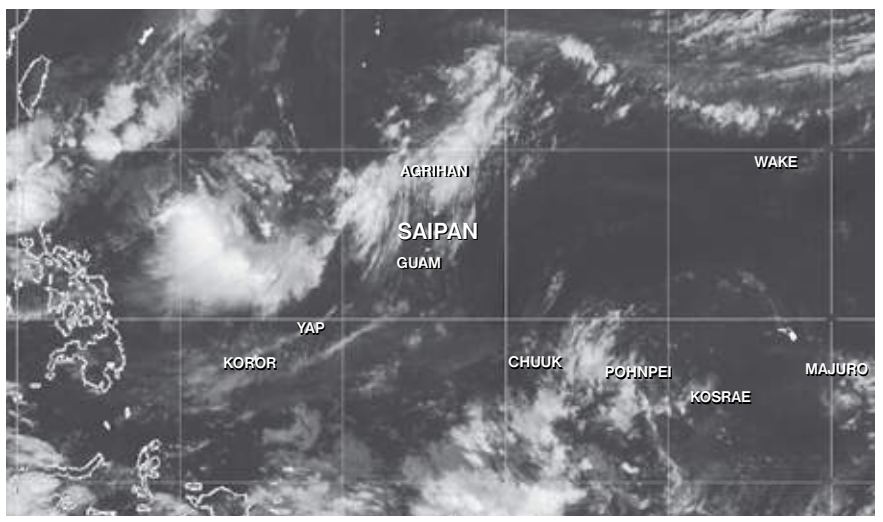
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Yap	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲90	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲56	▼37
Beijing	Showers	▲86	▼69
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲88	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼74
London	Showers	▲64	▼45
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Manila	Rain	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲58	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼73
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼62
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼62
Paris	Cloudy	▲64	▼46
Pusan	Cloudy	▲76	▼61
Rome	Cloudy	▲81	▼65
Salem	Cloudy	▲69	▼50
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼60
Tokyo	Rain	▲72	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲80	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low-level trough extends northward from EQ133E to near Koror at 8N136E then continues as a monsoon trough to west of the Marianas at 17N137E and turns northwestward to beyond 130E at 24N. Scattered showers are occurring near the low-level trough between the equator and 5N from 136E to 142E, aided by upper-level divergence. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are found along and west of the monsoon trough axis between 13N and 18N from 130E to 136E. Another low-level trough extends westward from a low pressure system near 25N175E to Minami Tori Shima at 24N154E to end at 23N136E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along the trough axis over the CNMI but north of Wake Island within 115 miles of a line from 25N175E to 22N165E to 23N153E to 16N136E. Converging winds south of the trough are producing scattered showers over the rest of the Marianas within 60 miles of a line from 13N145E to 18N147E. Trade winds converging toward a surface ridge are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 6N from 147E to 161E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers east of Majuro but over Tarawa Atoll between 1N and 8N from 172E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:34 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
5:28 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:07 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:22 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:32 PM	4:09 AM
Sunday	6:25 PM	4:56 AM
Monday	7:17 PM	5:46 AM
Tuesday	8:06 PM	6:38 AM
Wednesday	8:52 PM	7:30 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 6, 1999

CIP central agency eyed
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is mulling over a proposal to set up a central government agency that will coordinate all the capital improvement projects in the Commonwealth in a bid to speed up completion of these infrastructure plans. The move comes in the wake of reported in-fighting between departments and agencies over use of millions of dollars in construction grants from the federal government and local matching from the CNMI. At present, some $45 million worth of infrastructure projects are awaiting construction, according to Tenorio. "We want to make sure that we are monitoring those projects, not only the CIP, but also other federal grants that have been made available to us," he told reporters over the weekend.

JTPA trainees vow to take over private sector jobs
Jacob Villagomez wakes up early and heads to work at 7 o'clock in the morning every day. He works as a delivery man and warehouse keeper at Triple J Wholesale Department. "I feel like I'm a real employee. I sweat a lot, but I like being busy," says Villagomez, a recent graduate of Marianas High School (MHS) who is taking a summer job under the Job Training Partnership Act or JTPA. This is the first year for Villagomez to go on a job training in a private company. During his previous years' JTPA training, he was sent to different government agencies such as the Department of Commerce, Department of Public Works, and the Legislature, where he said he "only learned how to look at the watch and wait for lunch time and the end of office hours."

July 6, 2000

Senate grills DPW officials
The Department of Public Works will be short of eight more engineers within the next year, which could worsen problems over handling of the $3.2 million in annual grants from the Federal Highway Administration, according to officials. DPW officials were grilled by the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee yesterday at the start of the oversight hearing into alleged mismanagement and inefficiency by the department in administering the federal aid. Senators expressed concern on the limited staff and expertise hired for the department's Technical Services Division which has the responsibility to ensure that the funding is properly spent and documented.

CPA criticized for increasing airport fees
A top official of Japan Airlines yesterday warned the CNMI government against imposing additional fees at Saipan International Airport to prevent aircraft carriers from transferring to neighboring island Guam. Yukiharu Enomoto, district manager of JAL, said the CNMI should consider implementing incentives to lure more airlines into the Northern Marianas just like Honolulu and Guam airports which both earlier waived landing fees for a certain period. Speaking before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting, the JAL executive criticized the recent 65 percent increase in aircraft landing fee and 38 percent hike in passenger facility charge carried out by the Commonwealth Ports Authority in March 2000 at this time when airlines are having difficulty to survive due to the slowdown in the island's tourism economy.

July 6, 2001

Low PCB level found in land crabs
The Department of Public Health has warned against the consumption of land crabs harvested from Tanapag village, after tests confirmed the presence of low-level polychlorinated biphenyl in some land crab samples. The agency released yesterday a health advisory that will take effect indefinitely, pending the completion of a more comprehensive study that will determine the impact of low-dose PCB among the land crab-consuming public. Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez made the announcement based on raw data released by the US Environmental Protection Agency, which confirmed the presence of low-level PCB on some land crabs tested in Tanapag.

Businesses post growth in 2000
The Commonwealth economy may not be in such a bad shape, after all. This, after a Department of Commerce's fourth quarter economic indicators report showed that business gross revenue grew by almost two percent in 2000. According to the report, revenue generated by all private companies in the Commonwealth increased to $2.255 million last year from $2.213 million in 1999. With nearly all major economic indicators down, it comes as a surprise to the business sector that business gross revenue managed to inch up by 1.8 percent last year.

Business

Despite fewer cuts, May jobless rate seen rising

WASHINGTON (AP)—With companies in no mood to hire, the unemployment rate is still rising. But the furious pace of layoffs is easing as the recession loosens its hold on the country.

The Labor Department on Friday is slated to release a report expected to show that a net total of 520,000 jobs were lost in May. If economists are right, the figure would mark the second straight month that job losses slowed. It also would be the fewest job reductions since October.

"A loss of that many jobs is bad, but would be taken as a sign that the heavy weights on the economy and the labor market seem to be diminishing a bit," said Steven Cochrane, managing director of Moody's Economy.com.

The deepest job cuts of the recession came in January when 741,000 jobs disappeared, the most since 1949.

Job losses averaged 700,000 a month in the first quarter but dropped to 539,000 in April. They should average around 500,000 in the current quarter and taper off to 250,000 per month in the final quarter of this year, according to some projections.

Even if job losses do let up, companies will be reluctant to hire until they feel certain any economic recovery will last. That's why economists predict the unemployment rate will climb to 9.2 percent in May, from 8.9 percent in April. If that happens, it would be the highest since September 1983, when the U.S. was recovering from a severe recession that had driven unemployment past 10 percent.

As the recession—which started in December 2007 and is now the longest since World War II—bites into sales and profits, companies have turned to layoffs and other cost-cutting measures to survive the fallout. Those include holding down workers' hours and freezing or cutting pay.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke repeated his prediction this week that the recession will end this year, but again warned that any recovery will be gradual.

Many economists believe the jobless rate will hit 10 percent by the end of this year. Some think it could rise as high as 10.7 percent by the second quarter of next year before it starts to make a slow descent. The post-World War II high was 10.8 percent at the end of 1982.

Oil rises to new high for 2009 at near $70 barrel

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices on Thursday set a new high for the year, buoyed by a weaker dollar and the first drop in unemployment since January.

Benchmark crude for July delivery was up $2.69 to settle at $68.81 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil climbed as high as $69.60 earlier in the day.

In London, Brent prices rose $2.83 to settle at $68.71 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Oil prices have rallied for three months, and they soared this week to their highest levels since November. Crude now fetches nearly twice its February price, mostly on the expectation that the dismal U.S. economy could be stabilizing.

A government report provided some evidence of that Thursday, saying the nation's unemployment rolls fell for the first time in 20 weeks. The Labor Department said the number of people filing for jobless benefits dropped by 15,000 to 6.7 million.

The dollar also fell against the euro and the yen, a move that tends to push oil prices higher since the benchmark contract is traded in U.S. currency. And tanker tracker Oil Movements reported a slight drop in OPEC exports as the cartel tries to match a slump in global demand.

Goldman Sachs boosted its forecast for benchmark crude based on expectations that the economy will stabilize and OPEC production cuts will shrink global supplies. It now expects oil to cost $85 a barrel by the end of the year, up from its previous estimate of $65 a barrel.

Nevertheless, experts say the market is filled with more enthusiasm than is warranted by the huge surplus of petroleum in the U.S.

On Thursday, the Energy Information Administration said the country's supply of natural gas rose more than expected last week to 2.34 trillion cubic feet. Natural gas is a major energy source for power plants, and the bloated inventory is a sign of how much manufacturers and other industries have slowed down.

"It's certainly hard to see anything in the fundamental numbers to support" higher crude prices, said Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research. "The psychology has shifted, and people seize on the bullish news and ignore the bearish news."

Nation

Gender and heritage a frequent topic for Sotomayor

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sonia Sotomayor told the Senate on Thursday that the White House never questioned her about cases or issues she might have to decide as a Supreme Court justice, a disclosure gleaned from reams of documents that reveal she has spoken repeatedly about how her gender and Latina heritage affect her judging.

The federal appeals court judge divulged new details about her finances and provided three decades of writings, speeches and rulings that give both supporters and critics fresh fodder for the coming debate on her confirmation. They include more instances in which she said she hopes a "wise Latina" would reach a better decision than a man without that experience.

The comments in 2002 and 2003 echo a much-criticized remark she made in 2001 at the University of California-Berkeley law school that has prompted a furor among conservatives who say they suggest President Barack Obama's first Supreme Court nominee brings a personal bias to her legal decisions.

Obama has said he is "sure she would have restated it." In fact, she said it almost precisely the same way in speeches to the Princeton Club in 2002 and one at Seton Hall law school in 2003, according to copies she sent the Senate.

AP

Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor meets with Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa., in his hideaway office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, June 4, 2009.

Sotomayor has told senators in private meetings this week that while her background shapes who she is, she believes judges should follow the law above all.

The documents also reveal that the White House first contacted Sotomayor about the nomination four days before Justice David Souter announced he would retire.

Sotomayor first got a call from White House counsel Greg Craig on April 27, then had near-daily contact with his office after Souter's announcement May 1. She spoke to about a dozen White House aides during the secretive selection process, leading to a face-to-face interview with Obama on May 21.

The president took the Memorial Day weekend to mull his selection, then announced it May 26. Sotomayor would be the first Hispanic and the third woman to serve on the court.

The documents provide a fuller portrait of Sotomayor, 54, who was reared in the Bronx and educated in the Ivy League. She likes dining on pig intestines and reading legal thrillers. She lists luxury brands Fendi, Ferrari and Bulgari as past clients—but also once recused herself from a case involving the discount retailer B.J.'s Wholesalers because she was a member.

Public plan threatens bipartisan health deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's hopes for a bipartisan health deal seemed in jeopardy Thursday as GOP senators protested his renewed support for a new public health insurance plan, and a key Democratic chairman declared that such a plan would likely be in the Senate's bill.

A public plan that would compete with private insurers is opposed by nearly all Republicans. Obama long has supported it, but he had avoided going into detail about his health goals, leaving the specifics to Congress and emphasizing hopes for a bipartisan bill.

That changed when Obama released a letter Wednesday to two Senate Democrats saying he believed strongly in the need for a new public plan.

"It wasn't helpful, it wasn't helpful," said Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, which is taking a lead role in crafting a health care overhaul. "Words make a difference. And this made a difference."

"Didn't help. It hurt," said Sen. Mike Enzi of Wyoming, top Republican on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Added Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev.: "If he wants a bipartisan bill, he has to recognize that a government-run plan doesn't get you to a bipartisan plan." Ensign spoke in an interview following a Senate Finance Committee meeting on the legislation.

The White House spokeswoman for health policy, Linda Douglass, responded: "As the president said in his letter, he remains hopeful that many Republicans will see fit to join with Democrats to enact legislation that will lower health care costs for businesses, families and government."

Suspect in abortion provider death talks from jail

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—The man accused of killing Kansas abortion provider George Tiller said Thursday from the county jail where he is being held that he's "being treated as a criminal" even though he hasn't been convicted.

In a brief telephone conversation with The Associated Press, Scott Roeder also disputed what he called "broad brush" characterizations of him as being anti-government.

"I want people to stop and think: It is not anti-government, it is anti-corrupt government," Roeder told The Associated Press from the Sedwick County Jail.

The 51-year-old Kansas City, Mo. man was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder for allegedly killing Tiller with a single gunshot as the doctor handed out programs Sunday while ushering at the Lutheran church he attended in Wichita. Roeder also is accused of assaulting two witnesses before leaving the church and driving away. He was arrested a few hours later.

When asked by the AP to discuss the Tiller shooting, Roeder refused to comment, saying he would talk about that later.

"I haven't been convicted of anything, and I am being treated as a criminal," he said after calling the AP. The telephone conversation lasted about three minutes.

Roeder said he is concerned about the media attention his family, particularly his elderly mother, was getting following his arrest.

"I appreciate your prayers," said Roeder, who has a preliminary court hearing scheduled for June 16. District Judge Warren Wilbert set Roeder's bond on Thursday at $5 million, reversing an earlier ruling to deny bond.

Dan Monnat, the Tiller family attorney, declined comment on Roeder's statements.

If convicted on the murder charge, Roeder would face a mandatory life sentence and would not be eligible for parole for at least 25 years.

Hundreds of people are expected at Tiller's funeral on Saturday. The late-term abortion provider and his Wichita clinic were a regular target of anti-abortion protests, including the 45-day "Summer of Mercy" event staged by Operation Rescue in 1991. His clinic was damaged by a pipe bomb in 1986, and a protester shot at him in 1993, wounding his arms.

NC man charged with arranging wife's rape online

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. (AP)—Craigslist is again under scrutiny after a North Carolina man was charged with using the popular online classified site to fulfill his own fantasy by finding someone to rape his wife at knifepoint while he watched.

The woman said Thursday she has been "traumatized" by the attack, which she did not know about ahead of time. It happened a month after Craigslist agreed to overhaul its policing of sex ads following a slaying in Massachusetts.

"You don't know what I'm going through," she said, shaking her head as she stood on her front porch. "This is the worst thing that's ever happened to me."

The woman spoke to The Associated Press a day after her husband was ordered held on $200,000 bond on charges including first-degree rape. The AP, which generally does not identify victims of sexual assault, is not naming the man to avoid identifying his wife.

Police in Kannapolis, about 25 miles northeast of Charlotte, said the husband told them he found his wife's attacker by responding to at least two personal ads on Craigslist and acknowledged that she didn't know about it. They couldn't say if the attacker was paid.

"The guy is just a freak," Police Capt. Chuck Adams said.

Experts say the case is likely to lead to more questions for Craigslist, which has faced criticism for its "erotic services" section.

"We share the public's horror that such a crime was committed, and our heart goes out to the victim," Craigslist spokeswoman Susan MacTavish Best said in an e-mail Wednesday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Mom stabs bus driver in stroller dispute

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A 17-year-old mother was so angered that a city bus driver ordered her to fold up a stroller carrying her toddler, she poured a bottle of milk over the driver's head and then stabbed her, authorities said. New Orleans Regional Transit Authority rules require strollers to be collapsed so they do not block aisles. After the woman refused several requests, veteran bus driver Hanella Johnson said she would not move the bus until the stroller was folded, Officer Garry Flot of the New Orleans Police Department said Thursday. "The woman then got up and spilled milk from a baby bottle on the victim," Flot said. "Then she took the baby and stroller off the bus."

Charges dropped in black man's dragging death

DALLAS (AP)—Murder charges were dropped at the prosecution's request Thursday in the dragging death of a black man in east Texas, and the two white men who had been accused of killing him were released from jail. Shannon Finley and Charles Crostley were released Thursday afternoon in Paris after a judge granted the special prosecutor's motion to dismiss the case. The two men had been charged with fatally striking 24-year-old Brandon McClelland with a pickup truck in September following a late-night beer run the three friends had made to Oklahoma. The case was hampered by a lack of eyewitnesses and physical evidence. Last month, a gravel truck driver gave a sworn statement acknowledging he might have accidentally run over McClelland.

Colo., NY reps want regulation of gas 'fracking'

DENVER (AP)—The push to put a widely used oil and gas drilling process under federal oversight could gain ground with a new administration in place and concerns about the development of huge gas fields in the East. Democratic Reps. Diana DeGette of Colorado and Maurice Hinchey of New York plan to reintroduce a bill that would repeal a ban on regulating the process, called hydraulic fracturing, under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The exemption was part of the 2005 energy bill and followed an Environmental Protection Agency report that found there was little or no threat to underground drinking water from the process.

Asia

Report: US to go for own sanctions versus NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States has told South Korea that it will impose its own financial sanctions on the North apart from punishments the U.N. has been mulling for Pyongyang's latest nuclear test, a news report said Friday.

The U.S. sanctions call for blacklisting foreign financial institutions that help the North launder money and conduct other dubious deals, the South Korean Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg briefed the South Korean president on the new sanctions at a meeting Thursday, the mass-market paper said, citing an unidentified official at the presidential office. The U.S. Embassy in Seoul could not confirm the report.

Last week, Pyongyang conducted a barrage of missile launches and an underground nuclear test that violated previous U.N. Security Council sanctions. The North also appeared to be preparing for more missile tests, including one believed to be capable of reaching the U.S.

A similar U.S. measure imposed on a bank in the Chinese territory of Macau in 2005 effectively led to the North being severed from the international financial system, as other institutions voluntarily severed their dealings with the bank and the North.

That measure appeared to have hit the regime hard. News reports at the time said North Korean officials had to carry around bags of cash for financial transactions. Pyongyang stayed away from nuclear disarmament talks for more than a year in retaliation.

North Korea mum about US journalists' trial

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea stayed silent Friday about the fate of two U.S. journalists who were supposed to go on trial a day earlier on charges they entered the country illegally and engaged in "hostile acts"—allegations that could draw a 10-year sentence in a labor camp.

Laura Ling and Euna Lee, reporters for former Vice President Al Gore's California-based Current TV, were arrested March 17 near the North Korean border while on a reporting trip to China.

Their trial began in the communist country's highest court at a time of mounting tensions on the Korean peninsula following the regime's provocative May 25 nuclear test.

As the United Nations and Washington discussed how to punish the regime for its defiance, there were fears the women could become political pawns in the standoff with Pyongyang.

Analyst Choi Eun-suk, a professor of North Korean law at Kyungnam University, said the court could convict the women, and then the government could use them as bargaining chips with the United States.

"The North is likely to release and deport them to the U.S.—if negotiations with the U.S. go well," Choi said.

Police swarm Tiananmen Square on anniversary

BEIJING (AP)—In Tiananmen Square, police were ready to pounce at the first sign of protest. In Hong Kong, a sea of candles flickered in the hands of tens of thousands who vented their grief and anger.

Two starkly contrasting faces of China were on display Thursday, the 20th anniversary of the military's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators—from Beijing's rigid control in suppressing any dissent, to freewheeling Hong Kong, which enjoys freedoms all but absent on the mainland.

Tiananmen Square was blanketed by uniformed and plainclothes security officers who were ready to silence any potential demonstration, and there were few hints that the vast plaza was the epicenter of a student-led movement that was crushed on June 3-4, 1989, shocking the world.

Police barred foreign journalists from entering the square and threatened them with violence, even barring them from covering the daily raising of China's national flag.

Chinese and foreign tourists were allowed in Tiananmen as usual, although security officials appeared to outnumber visitors.

Dissidents and families of victims were confined to their homes or forced to leave Beijing, part of sweeping government efforts to prevent online debate or organized commemorations of the anniversary.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Storm kills 22 people in central China

BEIJING (AP)—A storm with gale-force winds killed 22 people and seriously injured 117 in central China, state media said Friday. Heavy rain and winds of up to 67 miles (108 kilometers) per hour swept through Shangqiu and Kaifeng in Henan province Wednesday night, ripping up trees and sending them crashing into homes, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Several cities in neighboring Anhui were also affected but no deaths were reported there, it said. Most of the victims were hit by falling houses or trees, and two were hit by lightning, Xinhua said. The storm destroyed about 9,800 homes and cut water and electricity to more than 3 million people, it said.

4 killed, 44 injured in southwest China bus fire

BEIJING (AP)—A fire aboard a public bus killed 24 people and left another 44 hospitalized Friday morning in southwestern China, state media reported. Another 10 people escaped the blaze in the city of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, the Xinhua News Agency said. Pictures posted on blogs and Internet forums showed the bus consumed by flames. One badly burned and bloody woman was seen laying on the road with a man standing over her, his clothes burned off and his skin singed bright red.

US envoy visits Pakistan refugees

SHAIKH SHAHZAD CAMP, Pakistan (AP)—Top U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke brought promises of more American aid to sweltering camps where some of the 3 million refugees uprooted by Pakistan's offensive against the Taliban have fled. In conversations in tents and under thatch-roofed buildings Thursday, Holbrooke also stressed that Washington's role in the crisis was to help the refugees, not the military—a message aimed at quelling deep suspicions in Pakistan that the Swat Valley campaign was launched at Washington's behest. Meanwhile, the military said late Thursday that security forces had arrested three key associates of Sufi Muhammad, a hardline cleric who brokered a February truce between Pakistan and the Swat militants—a deal that collapsed after the Taliban tried to expand their presence to a district outside Swat.

World

Obama seeks a common cause with Muslim world

CAIRO (AP)—Invoking the Quran and his rarely used middle name, Barack Hussein Obama declared Thursday that America has a common cause with Islam and never will be at war with the faith—an overture intently watched by the Muslim world and welcomed in unlikely quarters. An Iranian cleric called the president's speech "an initial step for removing misconceptions."

Obama spoke at a seat of Islamic learning, his 55-minute address suffused with respect for touchstones of the religion. He said the time had come to "speak the truth" and "seek a new beginning."

"America and Islam are not exclusive," he said, "and need not be in competition. Instead, they overlap, and share common principles of justice and progress, tolerance and the dignity of all human beings."

Obama made no specific references to his predecessor in the White House during his Cairo University speech, but others quickly did.

"There is a change between the language of President Obama and previous speeches made by George Bush," said Fawzi Barhoum, a spokesman for Hamas. But he added that Obama did not specifically note the suffering in Gaza following the three-week Israeli incursion earlier this year.

"So all we can say is that there is a difference in the statements, and the statements of today did not include a mechanism that can translate his wishes and views into actions," said Barhoum, whose group the U.S. considers a terrorist organization.

AP

U.S. President Barack Obama tours the Sphinx and pyramids outside Cairo, Thursday, June 4, 2009.

Brazil: Crash investigation looks at sensors

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Investigators trying to determine why Air France Flight 447 broke apart in a violent storm over the Atlantic are looking at the possibility that speed sensors—or an external instrument key to collecting speed data—failed in unusual weather, two aviation industry officials said Thursday.

Brazil's Navy and Air Force, meanwhile, issued statements saying that despite earlier reports by the military, no wreckage had been recovered from the Airbus A330, which went down off the country's northeastern coast, killing all 228 people aboard. It is the world's worst aviation disaster since 2001.

Officials with knowledge of the investigation and independent analysts all stressed they don't know why a plane that seemed to be flying normally crashed just minutes after the pilot messaged that he was entering an area of extremely dangerous storms.

They will have little to go on until they recover the plane's "black box" flight data and voice recorders, now likely on the ocean floor miles (kilometers) beneath the surface.

Other hypotheses—even terrorism—haven't been ruled out, though there are no signs of a bomb. Officials have said a jet fuel slick on the ocean's surface suggests there was no explosion.

WORLD BRIEFS

CDC: Swine flu to spread in Southern Hemisphere

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico has seen the worst of swine flu, but the virus will likely continue to spread worldwide as flu season ramps up in the Southern Hemisphere. The epidemic peaked in Mexico, the center of the outbreak, in late April, and now has spread throughout the Northern Hemisphere, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday. But it will continue to be a threat south of the equator, where countries are entering the winter months and traditional flu season, according to the CDC report, one of the most comprehensive yet on the effect of the virus on people. South America already has had more than 600 cases, including one death in Chile, while Australia has reported more than 500. Swine flu has hit more than 60 countries, with the United States reporting the most cases—more than 11,400, including at least 19 deaths, according to the CDC.

5th UK minister resigns, piling pressure on Brown

LONDON (AP)—Prime Minister Gordon Brown was dealt a devastating blow to his leadership late Thursday when one of his most ambitious ministers resigned—hours after Britain voted in European elections—and called on him to step down. Work and Pensions Secretary James Purnell became the fifth minister to abandon Brown's Cabinet in recent days. Purnell called on the prime minister to resign for the good of the Labour party in a resignation letter seen by The Associated Press. Purnell was the first of the five ministers to openly criticize Brown and ask him to step down. In his letter to Brown, Purnell writes: "I am calling on you to stand aside to give our party a fighting chance of winning. As such I am resigning from Government."

American pleads guilty in Australia vacation death

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—An American man pleaded guilty in an Australian court Friday to the manslaughter of his wife who drowned during a honeymoon scuba diving trip on the Great Barrier Reef in 2003. David Gabriel Watson, 32, of Birmingham, Alabama, arrived in the northeastern city of Brisbane of his own volition last month to answer a murder charge in the death of Christina Mae Watson. She drowned on Oct. 22, 2003 as the couple dived off the tropical coast of Queensland state 11 days after their wedding. Watson's guilty plea in Queensland Supreme Court to the lesser charge of manslaughter means he will not be tried on the charge of murder, to which he pleaded not guilty.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, June 6, 2009

OFW remittances boost hometown dev't

By DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Overseas Filipino workers send money home via Western Union.

MANILA, Philippines—Who said remittances from overseas Filipino workers would plunge drastically due to the global financial crisis?

Today, more and more OFWs, aside from regularly sending money back home to their families, tend to band together to raise funds to help develop their hometowns.

The agricultural town of Pozorrubio in Pangasinan province, for instance, was cited in a recent study commissioned by leading global money transfer company Western Union as an example of a new phenomenon called "collective remittance."

Because of the huge development potential of such inflows, especially in the Philippines which is one of the world's largest recipients of remittances, Western Union said it planned to pilot-test in the country a project aimed at ramping up collective remittances.

"Migrant worker remittances are mainly family to family paying for basic necessities. But if remittances are pooled and invested in creating economic opportunities for the whole community, the impact would be greater," said Western Union vice president Angela Heng, who was in Manila Thursday to host a one-day conference on collective remittance.

Ahead of the meet, Western Union commissioned the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) to conduct a study on communal or collective remittances in different parts of the world, their impact, and what could be done to make them more effective.

Pozorrubio, which has about 10 percent of its population working overseas, was cited in the study for having a local government that was able to encourage its overseas residents to make collective remittances to support local public works projects.

Bright lights

Since 1986, town officials have been visiting Pozorrubians in California, Chicago, Hawaii, New York, Washington and Hong Kong to encourage them to form themselves into solidarity groups, elect officers, and identify projects and programs in their hometown that they could support monetarily.

"For example, Pozorrubio had no street lights, but after the mayor encouraged the migrant workers' families to put up lampposts in front of their homes, the whole town lit up," the EIU study said.

As the Pozzorubian migrants became better organized, the study said the local government began encouraging them to hand their donations directly to the beneficiaries, and invited them to return home to see for themselves the impact their remittances were having.

"Return migration was the theme of the 2002 town fiesta," the study said.

It said Pozorrubian migrant communities were able to finance the construction of a park and library, and refurbish a high school's English learning center.

The community hospital received an electrocardiograph, computer, stethoscopes, toilet, septic tank, window screens, electric fans, beddings and medicines.

On top of these, the hospital is visited annually by locally born doctors who perform medical missions.

Multiplier effect

"The multiplier effect of these remittances has been enormous. By 2001, this rural town of 56,000 had Internet cafés, car rental services for visiting migrants, video rental shops, and a rural bank with over $2 million in deposits and only a few borrowers," the study said.

It also built 12 public and private irrigation facilities, 50 manufacturing establishments, six big private housing subdivisions and 32 day-care centers.

Different strokes

"This level of development is almost never seen in rural Philippines, even in the larger municipalities. Moreover, the town's tax collection is one of the highest in the region, with most of the revenue coming from the busy public market," the study said.

The EIU said other LGUs had taken different approaches to encourage their migrant populations to invest in local enterprises.

"The most visible example is the province of Bohol which set up an investment center and enacted a local investment code to assist investors in identifying, organizing and matching their resources with local partners," it said.

The Island Garden City of Samal, near Davao City, passed a similar code geared toward developing local tourism, it noted.

Another area where migrants make collective remittances is charity.

Cited as an example was the Filipino community in South Puget Sound in Washington state which raised more than $200,000 that it remitted to a foundation in Bislig City in Surigao del Sur to finance rehabilitation and livelihood projects.

111th Philippine Independence Day, Migrant Workers' Day set June 7

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Filipinos in the CNMI will be celebrating the 111th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence this Sunday, June 7, at the Marianas Business Plaza, which houses the offices of the Philippine Consulate General.

The celebration will coincide with the Migrant Workers' Day, to be highlighted by the awarding ceremony for the different sponsors of the "Tuloy Aral Program" for school year 2008-2009.

Close to a hundred individuals and private companies are on the list of awardees.

The event will start at 7am with an invocation by Fr. Noli Alparce and the raising of the Philippine flag to be led by Angel Camacho.

United Filipino organization president Olive Yana will deliver the opening remarks before the reading of Independence Day messages from government officials, including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo will read Arroyo's message. Consul Belinda M. Ante will read the message of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, Labor Representative Joan Lourdes D. Lavilla will read the message of Labor and Employment Secretary Marianito D. Roque and Welfare Officer Retnaldo Tayag will read that of Overseas Workers Welfare Administrator Carmelita S. Dimzon.

Tayag will lead the acknowledgement of "Tuloy Aral" sponsors.

Entertainment numbers will be provided by members of the Bayani Association and Michelle V. Villaraza.

RP Consulate ID card free of charge

Filipinos in the Northern Mariana Islands who don't have any identification to use for official transactions could secure a temporary card from the office of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan free of charge.

The consulate ID card could also be used by those who may have pending applications for renewal of their passports.

This is a way for the consulate to help Filipinos who may have difficulty in coming up with the $50 fee for the renewal of their passports.

Applicants for the consulate ID card must bring with them a 1 x 1 size photo, a photocopy of their passport and entry permit.

The Philippine Consulate General is located on the fifth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Although it will not replace a passport, Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo said the ID card could be honored by agencies or business establishments.

It could also be used for claiming back wages since it will certify that the person's presence in the CNMI is legal while he or she is waiting for the arrival of his or her passport.

Renewing Philippine passports take about six weeks because the process will have to go through the central office in Manila. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

LABOR FRONT

Effect of employer's failure to notify non-renewal

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: What is the effect if an employer fails to properly notify an alien worker about his or her non-renewal of an approved employment contract?

A: According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, an employer should provide to the alien worker, obtain a signature acknowledgment from the worker for, and file with the Department of Labor a notice of the employer's intent not to renew the contract. The notice should be in a standard form provided by Labor and should be given to the worker 30 days before the termination date of the contract.

If an employer fails to give notice properly, that employer remains the last employer of record. It means that the employer shall be responsible for medical expenses and repatriation of the worker. It also means that the employer is liable to pay the employee's full wages up to a maximum of 30 days beyond the termination date of the contract until notice is given and 30 days has elapsed.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: After the termination of the employment contract, can an employer require the alien worker to work in order to be entitled to wages?

A: No. The regulations state that at any time until 30 days after the termination date of the contract, the employee may register with Labor's Employment Services or file a complaint, but may not pursue both avenues simultaneously.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: If an employer fails to give the required 30-day notice of nonrenewal, what will happen to the alien worker's contract?

A: In the event that the employer has failed to provide the required 30 days notice of nonrenewal, the worker has an automatic extension of the contract for 30 days. The Labor's Employment Services should register an alien worker for transfer and, when an employer has been identified by the worker within 30 days of the date of registration, should transmit the request for permission to transfer to the Labor Administrative Hearing Office.

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Mancao returns home, to tell all he knows

By JEROME ANING, JEANNETTE ANDRADE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A former police officer who may help unlock some of the mysteries surrounding an 8-year-old double murder was the most heavily guarded man in the Philippines when he set foot in the country at dawn Thursday.

Not since opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. returned home in 1983—to be martyred at an airport guarded by more than 1,000 soldiers—has any returning Filipino been given as tight security as former Senior Supt. Cezar Mancao II received, Philippine Daily Inquirer archives showed.

Security officials even used two decoy vehicles to protect Mancao, who has implicated opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the 2000 killings of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito. Lacson has denied the allegation.

"He has decided to tell what he knows," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said.

In handcuffs, Mancao looked bulky in a black jacket he wore over a khaki-colored bullet-proof vest after stepping off the Philippines Air Lines Flight PR-103 that brought him from the United States after an eight-year absence. The handcuffs were removed later.

More than 200 government agents were scattered at the premises of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 when the plane landed at 5:23 a.m.

The number did not include scores of operatives of the Manila International Airport police department, the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group and local police units.

The head of the National Bureau of Investigation counterterrorism unit, Ric Diaz, told the Inquirer that Mancao had expressed a fear for his life and that someone in the government might want to harm him. Diaz did not say who Mancao referred to.

"When he expressed fear that the government itself might do him harm, I told him times are different now and nothing will happen to him. We are there to secure him," said Diaz, one of two officials who escorted Mancao from the United States for the flight home.

Bullet-proof, bomb-proof

Mancao left the airport in what NBI officials described as a bullet-proof and bomb-proof white Ford Expedition, fifth in a convoy of about 20 cars, most with blinkers and sirens.

About a dozen motorcycle units traveled ahead of the convoy. Others were deployed on roads leading out of the airport terminal to clear the traffic.

Only family members

As part of security measures, the other plane passengers were made to disembark first. They included a distant uncle of Mancao, surgeon Miguel Mancao, from Boston, Massachusetts. His presence helped allay Mancao's fears, an NBI official said.

As Mancao stepped out of the plane, a portion of the arrival section was closed off and the movement of people, including NBI agents, was restricted. Manila International Airport Authority general manager Alfonso Cusi was seen scolding some NBI agents for not staying in their assigned places.

Full battle gear

One of the decoy vehicles was used to enable the Ford Expedition to slip into the NBI compound unmolested by mobs of journalists. Mancao was then escorted by agents in full battle gear to a fifth floor office where he would be kept.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said visitors would be restricted to immediate family members. He said that apart from additional agents in place, some 100 more were on reserve.

Sri Lankan Sayyaf captive released

By JULIE ALIPALA, JOCELYN UY
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Abu Sayyaf extremists freed a Sri Lankan peace worker after more than three months of captivity in Basilan, the military said Thursday.

Umar Jaleel, a member of the international civilian group Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP), was released at around 9:30 p.m. to a team of the provincial police and the military at Sitio Kurelem in Barangay Silangkum of Tipo-Tipo town, said Navy spokesperson Lt. Col. Edgard Arevalo on Thursday.

Jaleel's organization said in a statement posted on its website Thursday that the "traumatic event" would not discourage its members from continuing with their work in southern Mindanao.

"We are grateful and relieved for the safe return of Mr. Umar Jaleel," said Mel Duncan, executive director of NP.

"This is even more reason to intensify our efforts in supporting local work that promotes peace and coexistence," he added, thanking security forces, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the crisis management committee and the provincial government for helping in the safe release of Jaleel.

AP

Sri Lankan national Umar Jaleel, right, who works with the non-partisan NonViolent Peceforce rests in his hospital bed under close watch by his co-workers Thursday, Thursday, June 4, 2009 in Zamboanga City in southern Philippines.

Pinoy rescued from Aussie sharks, crocs

MANILA, Philippines—Three lucky backpackers were plucked from shark and crocodile infested waters off the coast of Australia by rescuers who stumbled on the stricken trio after their boat sank, officials said Wednesday.

The tourists, who have not been identified, were three kilometers off the coast of the northern Australian city of Darwin on Tuesday when their small boat capsized in choppy seas during a fishing trip.

But the backpackers were saved by chance when a customs boat searching for a missing vessel happened to spot their heads bobbing in the water just 30 minutes after the accident.

"They came across their heads in the water completely by accident," said Ian Badham from the aerial rescue service Careflight.

"Now it's very unlikely they would have been found any other way, so those three people, they've just won lotto," he said.

Darwin harbourmaster Captain Bruce Wilson said two men and a woman, including a French citizen and a Filipino, had been hauled out of the water after customs officers spotted them at sea.

The trio did not have a radio or flares, and nobody would have known that they were in the water, which he said.

"It would have been like looking for a needle in a haystack," Wilson said.

"It really was lucky because the Corio Bay (customs vessel) was doing a search, it was daylight, and they were near a shipping channel."

Wilson said that although the water wasn't cold, the trio were still in danger from the deadly creatures that frequent Darwin's harbor.

"Whether you freeze or get chomped by a croc, I don't know which one you'd prefer," he said. ***(Agence France-Presse)***

Bro. Eddie plans huge rally to stop Con-ass

By NIKKO DIZON, TJ BURGONIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The fallout from the hasty passage of House Resolution No. 1109 continued to be felt Thursday, with born-again Christian leader Bro. Eddie Villanueva threatening to set off "a spiritual earthquake in and out of Malacañang."

At a press conference, Villanueva said he would call out his coalition of grassroots-based organizations comprising more than five million members once the House of Representatives convenes itself into a constituent assembly (Con-ass) to amend the 1987 Constitution and lift term limits on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies.

"I think that is the only way to jolt the No. 1 terrorist in the country," he said.

Elsewhere, constitutionalist Joaquin Bernas said that what the administration allies in the House did in passing HR 1109 was to announce that they would commit a crime.

From his detention cell in Camp Crame national police headquarters, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim called on his fellow soldiers to help the people stop the administration from holding on to the reins of power beyond 2010.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

PBA player, 5 pals linked to QC mauling

MANILA, Philippines—A 24-year-old businessman has accused basketball player Marlou Aquino and five other men of beating him up after a basketball game in Quezon City on Wednesday night. In a complaint filed with the Cubao police station, Jitesa Gidwani, a resident of San Antonio Village in Makati City, claimed that Aquino and his companions ganged up on him after a game between Burger King and Sta. Lucia Realty at the Araneta Coliseum. Aquino plays for Sta. Lucia, one of the teams in the Philippine Basketball Association. Before the mauling incident, Gidwani had an argument with Aquino's daughter who was not identified in the police report, said Senior Police Officer 1 Dante Surban, desk officer. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Twister hits UP, rips shanties, fells post

MANILA, Philippines—A total of 12 shanties were destroyed when they were hit by a twister on the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman, Quezon City, Thursday morning. The twister, which wreaked havoc in the area for around three to five minutes, also tore off the branches of several trees and felled an electric post along C. P. Garcia Avenue, blocking the road to all traffic. As of Thursday afternoon, the post had yet to be removed from the avenue, resulting in heavy traffic in the area. Fortunately, no injuries were reported as a result of the incident, Superintendent Oscar Palisoc, Anonas police station commander, said in a phone interview. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

American nabbed for keeping 6 kids in Cebu

CEBU CITY, Philippines—An American national was arrested on Thursday for keeping six minors inside his house on Bantayan Island. Garry Lee Rhon, 69, was arrested at his home in the village of Poblacion, Madridejos town, by policemen, together with social workers and members of the International Justice Mission, an anti-child abuse group. Six minors aged 3 to 15 were "rescued" from his residence. Rhon was the second American nabbed on Bantayan Island on suspicion of child abuse. Superintendent Erson Digal, acting chief of the Cebu Provincial Police Office, said the Madridejos police raided Rhon's house after his neighbors reported that the American had been bringing a number of unaccompanied Filipino children there. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

2nd La Salle student found with A(H1N1)

MANILA, Philippines—A second foreign student of De La Salle University-Taft Avenue in Manila has tested positive for Influenza A(H1N1), one of seven new cases confirmed on Thursday by the Department of Health. This brought the number of confirmed swine flu cases in the Philippines to 29, so far. The two foreign DLSU students confirmed to be carrying the virus are both Japanese, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III. He said the second case, a 20-year-old male international graduate student, came into contact with the first DLSU case, a 21-year-old female foreign exchange student. The two students arrived on May 12, but authorities could not say if they took the same flight. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Attempt on life of DOTC exec worries Palace

PROTEST RALLY AP PHOTO/ PAT ROQUE

A lone protester uses a bamboo pole to hit police as they clash near the presidential palace Thursday, June 4, 2009 in Manila, Philippines. The protesting farmers alleged that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo manipulated the House of Representatives to pass the constituent assembly or the charter change insted of the agrarian reform bill.

By TJ BURGONIO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The botched assassination of Transportation Assistant Secretary Elmer Soneja is worrisome, but it's too early to link it to the scuttled $328-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal, Malacañang said Thursday.

"The Palace is condemning such evil activities of these people," Undersecretary Anthony Golez, deputy presidential spokesperson, said in a briefing.

What's "alarming," Golez added, was that the attack on Soneja and the previous killings of two government officials were being carried out in broad daylight in public areas.

"This is very alarming because of the fact that we're witnessing high profile killings in broad daylight in the middle of traffic in a progressive city," he said.

Five men shot Soneja while he was driving along traffic-clogged Ortigas Avenue Extension in Pasig City Wednesday morning, hitting him in the arm and torso, police said.

Soneja, head of the Department of Transportation and Communications' bids and awards committee on the NBN-ZTE deal, testified at the Senate inquiry into the deal in 2008.

Golez said it was too early for the public to conclude that the attack on Soneja was connected with his testimony on the cancelled broadband network deal ahead of an investigation by the Philippine National Police.

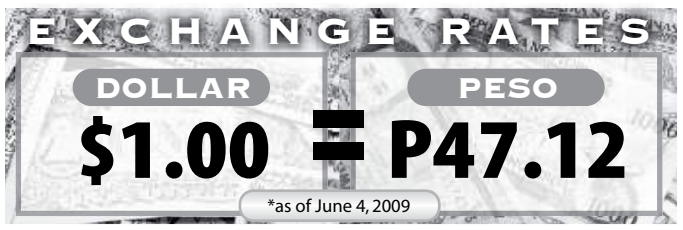
"We can't make hasty generalizations on these incidents. That's why we need thorough investigations," he said. "We leave this matter to the Philippine National Police."

The PNP has been directed to identify and track down the perpetrators, according to Golez. "The instruction to the PNP is to make sure these incidents won't happen again," he said.

Agriculture Undersecretary Gumersindo Lasam, who had testified on the P728-million fertilizer fund mess allegedly orchestrated by former Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, was shot dead in Tuguegarao City on April 14.

Public Works Undersecretary Ramon Aquino was ambushed outside the Department of Public Works and Highways office in Manila on March 11. He died eight days later from bullet wounds.

Dollar falls vs euro in Asia



TOKYO (AFP)—The dollar weakened against the euro in Asian trade Friday ahead of key US jobs data expected to point to a budding recovery that may sap demand for the greenback as a safe haven currency.

The euro firmed to $1.4188 in Tokyo morning trade from $1.4179 in New York late Thursday. The US currency was little changed at 96.61 yen.

Market players were awaiting the monthly US employment survey for May later Friday that may suggest job losses in the world's biggest economy are beginning to taper off, SMBC chief strategist Daisuke Uno indicated.

Most analysts expect employers to have cut 520,000 jobs, down from 539,000 in April. But the unemployment rate is still expected to have jumped to 9.2 percent, its highest since 1983.

Sentiment was lifted Thursday after new claims for US jobless benefits—a snapshot on the labor market—fell for a third consecutive week, a sign that layoffs have passed their peak and the recession may be easing.

The Labor Department said initial claims in the week ending May 30 dipped in line with expectations to 621,000 from the previous week's revised figure of 625,000 -- down from a peak of 674,000 in late March.

Meanwhile the euro was higher against the dollar and yen after the European Central Bank kept its interest rate unchanged at one percent and announced a new plan to shore up credit in European markets, dealers said.

The euro gained to 137.03 yen from 136.98.

The single European currency was "supported by ECB head (Jean-Claude) Trichet saying that the eurozone recession is abating," wrote NAB Capital strategist John Kyriakopoulos in a note to clients.

An improvement in retail sales in the euro-sharing region also boosted the currency, he added.

Trichet also told a press conference that the bank's plan to purchase 60 billion euros' ($85 billion') worth of low-risk covered bonds would begin next month and run until July 2010 "at the latest."

Philippine inflation at 18-month low

MANILA, Philippines (Reuters)—Annual inflation eased to an 18-month low of 3.3 percent in May, below market estimates, and the central bank said the data provides scope to cut interest rates further.

With food and fuel price pressures easing, some economists say domestic inflation could fall to zero and the consumer price index (CPI) could even start falling in the third quarter.

That could give the central bank room to slash its benchmark overnight borrowing rate to as low as 3 percent although most see one more rate cut taking the policy rate to 4 percent from its 4.25 percent, already a 17-year low.

Annual inflation in May slowed sharply from 4.8 percent in April and brought the average for the first five months of the year to 5.7 percent, the National Statistics Office announced on Friday.

"The scope for further monetary easing therefore continues, but tempered only by the need to ensure liquidity does not become excessive," central bank governor Amando Tetangco said in a text message to reporters.

That view runs counter to some other central banks in Asia, including those in South Korea, Malaysia and Thailand, which have hit the pause button after heavy rate cuts to counter the global economic downturn.

Economists in a Reuters had expected annual inflation last month to come in at 3.7 percent. The central bank had forecast a range of 3.3 percent to 4.2 percent.

The rapid slowdown in inflation is in line with a global trend although some analysts say the rapid deceleration in the Philippines may be partly due to a firmer peso, which has risen almost 3 percent since early March.

Still, HSBC economist Frederic Neumann said "deflation appears very unlikely."

"We should see an acceleration of CPI towards the end of the year, in part because oil prices have started to rise again," Neumann added.

TAKE CHARGE

Money lessons you won't learn in class

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Question: I grew up not really knowing how to handle my own money. My parents gave me a daily allowance until my graduation from college, and when I needed something, I just had to ask them. Reality bit me hard when I started working and had to live on what I earned. Now that I am a father to two young sons, I want to impart the right lessons to my children, including how to handle money. Where do I start?—Tom

Answer: Along with a good education and the right values, the skill to handle money responsibly is one of the best gifts you can give to your children. You and your wife are right in saying that money lessons should be taught to kids at an early age. It would be good to raise them well with the right perspective on money so they will be able to decide responsibly for themselves in the future.

Here are key money lessons you should teach your kids, which they won't learn in class:

Money is valuable.

It is not something that appears all the time at an ATM machine or in their wallet. It is a precious resource, one that is produced through hard work. Let your children know that you work hard to earn money so you could all have the basic necessities such as food, clothing, a nice home, and a good school for them. Thus, train them early to regard money as something they should handle well and not squander. With money, the family can have access to needs.

When you are at a supermarket or fast food, for instance, give your children a small amount of money for one small food item you order (maybe an ice cream cone or a lollipop) which they will hand over to the cashier. When they see that the cashier got the money from their extended hand and gave them back the item being bought, they will see the value of money firsthand.

Prioritize needs over wants.

When your children keep asking you to buy something that's not really a need (example, a toy), don't go out and buy it right away. Let them learn delayed gratification. Explain to them that you will prioritize the family's basic needs first, and you will need to save up for their wants. This will teach them to ask first if something is a need or a want, and to prioritize needs over wants.

Save for a rainy day.

Always stress the importance of saving for the future. Let your children know that when they have enough money saved in the future, they can buy their own cars and drive them someday. Boys are usually fond of playing with toy cars. By linking their love of cars with the thought of having their own real cars someday, you can teach and motivate them to save.

Tell them too, what you are saving up for: it may be a new home if you are currently renting, or a vacation for the family next summer, and their tuition for the coming years in school. Let them know that you are in the habit of saving.

Watch where your money goes.

Don't make comments within your children's earshot complaining that it's almost the end of the month and you don't know where your money went. Instead, let them know that you are keeping track of the family spending by having it all written down.

When you give them a money allowance for school (and you should, so they can learn how to use it), ask them at day's end what they did with it. Tell them to write it down. With this simple gesture, they will get into the habit of watching their own spending and living within their means.

And while you're at it, teach them how to make a budget. With their daily allowance, suggest amounts they can allot for savings and for spending. Instruct them not to go over their spending limit since that's all the money they have for the day.

Live simply.

It is a materialistic world we live in, and we are constantly bombarded with suggestions to buy this and that. Resist the urge to buy top name brands and live simply. Young children have no concept yet of what brands are high-end so communicate early on that it's who they are inside that is more important than the brand of shoes they wear.

Money is not the ultimate goal.

Let your children know that the best things in life are those that are free: time spent together as a family, having real friends, and being in good health. This will greatly help them put things in the proper perspective.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

New twist in Hayden, Katrina video scandal

Hayden Kho

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Just when I thought I had enough of the Hayden-Katrina brouhaha, I stumbled upon a shocking piece of evidence. After all has been said, uploaded, viewed and done, there's still more to unravel.

This time, it's not a videotape but an audiotape. It was inadvertently recorded by a starstruck household helper on her cell phone.

Having grown up in show biz, I thought I'm already shockproof but upon hearing the tape, my jaw dropped. It reaffirmed how cruel show biz can be.

The helper will surely turn helpless once the recording falls into the wrong hands. The ongoing circus is far from over.

Twist of fate

Karylle refuses to comment about her replacing Marian Rivera as endorser of Blue Water Day Spa. "I've long been patronizing the spa so I hope di na lang lagyan ng kulay. Twist of fate lang," she explains. "The first endorser, Brad Turvey, is a good friend. His manager was the one who told me about the place and I loved it instantly."

Since she can't be intrigue-free, she tries to be stress-free by frequenting the spa. "I'm addicted to their herbal combo massage and Spa Theatre where you can watch a movie while getting a foot spa." What if her co-endorser Akihiro Sato courts her? "I can't really say," she replies, "because I hardly know him. But during the shoot, he was a real gentleman. I was freezing in my bathing suit so he made sure I had a towel and jacket to cover up between takes."

After her split-up with Dingdong Dantes, has her taste in men changed? "I don't go for a particular type anymore," she says. "More than the physical, I try to talk to guys more, see what they're about and see if we can make each other think and laugh." Karylle is surely laughing all the way to the spa now that she's living it up.

Regine Tolentino

Refreshing face

Regine Tolentino has one of the most refreshing faces in the biz. Her sunny disposition is no put-on. "I have regular RF treatment, which is like a massage with the effects of a good workout," says Regine. She has also worked out her marriage and reconciled with Lander Vera Perez. "Love is really lovelier the second time around," she gushes. "Lander has his own work at the Department of Foreign Affairs now and I'm busy with mine, too. That way we don't suffocate each other. Couples should let each other grow."

Her advice to other women on how to win their man back? "Don't give too much of yourself away," she says. "Men like challenge. Don't nag about petty things and bawal ang losyang [it is bad to be ugly]!"

As we age, we gotta maintain our market value.

Eye for talent

Piolo Pascual is producing the launching movie of Eugene Domingo, "Kimidora." Long overdue for Uge. A great actor like PJ has an eye for real talent. It takes one to know one whose scenes are always "take one."

Kho's friend maintains innocence

By TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Businessman Eric Johnston Chua maintained he did not upload the steamy videos of cosmetic surgeon Hayden Kho with female celebrities, including actress Katrina Halili.

Chua, who has been accused by Kho of being behind the spread on the Internet of the sex videos, admitted that he got the computer hard disk of Kho, but when asked who uploaded the videos, he said: "I don't know."

Chua said the issue was stressful for him. He personally submitted his affidavit before the National Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD).

Chua, together with Dr. Mark Herbert "Bistek" Rosario, were told to explain their involvement in the uploading of the sex videos. Rosario has yet to appear before the NBI.

Halili has filed charges against Kho.

Cannes sidelights

Cannes Film Festival's Best Director Brilliante Mendoza shared with me some sidelights about his sojourn in France. "During the latter part of the fest, we got tired of sosyal na [expensive] food so we ate at a cheap Chinese resto, kasi na-miss namin mag-rice [we missed having rice]," he recalls. "And napakalayo ng nilakad namin para makabili ng cheap na souvenirs [And we walked far to get cheap souvenirs] (laughs). For the sosy [expensive] part, my tux and shoes were sponsored by Fendi and we were given one night and three additional rooms at Hotel Grey D'Albion at 600 euro per room."

Ooh la la! Vive Le Mendoza!

Contagious sweetness

Kim Chiu, Jake Cuenca, Gerald Anderson and the multi-awarded cast of "Tayong Dalawa" (weeknights after "Only You" on ABS-CBN), are in a euphoric state because the series has stayed on top of the ratings since its pilot episode.

My son IC told me that during his shoot with Kim and Gerald, Gerald would always get a kick out of scaring Kim in a malambing (sweet) way. Kimerald's sweetness is contagious. No wonder the viewers are hooked!

TV actor Geisler slapped with sex complaint

By ABIGAIL KWOK
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Police filed several charges, including acts of lasciviousness and unjust vexation, against actor Baron Geisler for allegedly sexually harassing actress Yasmien Kurdi, a police official said.

The case was filed before a court in Bulacan province, where the alleged harassment took place while Geisler and Kurdi were on the set of their television show, said Chief Superintendent Yolanda Tanigue, chief of the police Women's and Children's Protection Center (WCPC).

Geisler

Kurdi

Kurdi, accompanied by her lawyer, Ferdinand Topacio, filed a supplemental affidavit to her sexual harassment complaint before the WCPC on Tuesday noon.

The young actress was "very emotional" and was recommended to undergo counseling, Tanigue said.

In her affidavit, Kurdi said Geisler masturbated in front of her while they were on set, Tanigue said.

"Ang matinding iniiyakan niya, may mga nakakita, may mga witnesses, pero ngayon mag-isa na lang siyang lumalaban [She was crying because people saw what happened, there were witnesses. Now, she's fighting alone]," Tanigue said.

Tanigue said police would provide Kurdi with security.

Topacio appealed to Kurdi's home station, GMA-7, saying, "I would like to extend the olive branch to GMA because their reply was very strong and I never intended to impute any malice to GMA."

The lawyer had alleged that his client was misquoted in a GMA-7 news report that she was not pursuing charges against Geisler.

Scent of a troubled man

Network insider says Troubled Actor figured in his nth scandal because of a long-drawn struggle with substance abuse.

TA allegedly reported for work under the influence. Initially, his co-workers were clueless, but TA reeked of marijuana, NI claims.

In short, TA wasn't even aware of his lascivious acts on the set of his latest project-which eventually led to a raging controversy.

Sex video ad nauseum

Sure sign that a scandal has reached saturation point: the grapevine becomes deluged with the wildest rumors.

Latest gossip is that, apart from a bevy of beauties, two Hunky Model-Actors also fell victim to a sex video scandal.

Some women were videotaped not in the sex act, but in a dressing room. Two Sweet Actresses and Married Celebrity were videotaped while getting dressed.

Singer-Actress was spared because she wisely decided to dress up elsewhere.

Perverted Perpetrator of the above-mentioned crimes allegedly showed off his stash to two Male Celebrities. One of the MCs warned his Actress-Girlfriend to stay away from PP's place of business.

Speaking of which, why were the sex videos of Katherine Luna and Criselda Volks (released by their disgruntled ex-lovers) virtually ignored?

Twitterworld

Pia Guanio posted on her Twitter account: "That guy who poured water on Hayden was funny."

Raymond Gutierrez "Twittered" on his twin Richard, post-accident: "To those who are asking-Chard is ok . . . all medical checkups turned out fine. Still sad about it, though."

Also on Twitter, Anne Curtis is depressed about a different matter: "I lost my Blackberry . . . I'm so sad. It was my life."

Publicity hounds

Industry Veteran is shocked at Showbiz Newcomer's behavior. Allegedly heartbroken, SN attempted suicide. Upon waking up at the hospital, SN's first words were: "Am I all over the papers?"

It's true that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Handlers tried to stop SN's Mom from granting interviews, but she would not be prevailed upon.

Big pirates

An insider insists that piracy will never be completely eradicated because the top pirates in the country are Industry Bigwigs, including Major Producer.

An Indie Producer confirms this. MP's rep allegedly approached IP and, acting as broker for pirates, tried to buy IP's film for P15,000-for possible distribution in Quiapo.

"You're going to get pirated anyway," MP's rep told IP. "Might as well earn a little something from it."

■ ■ ■

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

■ Lolit Solis on Hayden Kho: "Anong klaseng tao ito? Nakakaawa na ang mga babaeng inano niya. Still wala siyang remorse." (Oo nga.)

■ Vicki Belo on being involved in the sex video scandal: "Of all the trials I've been through, this is probably the worst. But I always try to see a silver lining. Maybe the purpose behind it is for laws to finally be passed against things like these and for women to realize that... if somebody has a girlfriend, you shouldn't go in there and try to steal him." (Parang hindi ito ang usapan, Tita.)

■ Vicki on Lolit's allegation that she supports Hayden financially: "Di ko alam saan niya nakukuha yon. Nakakahiya sa parents ni Hayden... Wala naman akong binibigay na pera. Nandito lang ako as a friend. Moral support." (Not in cash, at di siya ang nagbibigay-maliwanag?)

■ Yasmien Kurdi on her acts of lasciviousness complaint against Baron Geisler: "Naramdaman ko po na na-degrade po ang pagkatao ko. Napa-blotter ko po. Sana, magtino na siya." (Amen.)

■ Baron on the controversy: "Everything went okay. We're back at work. Everything's good. We're at peace." (Wow, sobraang eeeezy!)

■ Marian Rivera on her first day playing the role of "Darna":"Kahit papaano nakakalipad na ako. Medyo sanay na ako sa harness at yung mga moves ni Darna na medyo babae ang galaw. Ayaw kasi ni direk Dom (Zapata) ng medyo maskulado, gusto niya medyo feminine pa rin. Medyo nakakailang kasi yung costume niya ganoon pero natuwa ako kasi ibang iba siya." (Medyo... ano kamo?)

■ Marian on reports that she and Dingdong Dantes sport tattoos with one another's initials: "Secret. Naniniwala kasi ako na bilang tao ay kailangan i-respeto din natin siya na kung may tattoo man siya eh kung ano man ang meaning nun eh nasa sa kanya na yun. Parang ako, kung meron man ako, akin na yun." (Ano raw?)

Maharlika – Opinyon

Worthless document

Forty minutes to midnight last Tuesday, the newly forged Lakas-Kampi-CMD majority in the House of Representatives steamrollered House Resolution 1109 setting the stage for convening Congress into a constituent assembly and propose amendments to the 1987 Constitution, without the Senate's concurrence in a separate vote.

In a viva voce vote, the Ayes thunderously drowned out the Nays after the majority restricted opposition interpellations that started at 5 p.m., in reaction to opposition charges that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was behind the move to amend the Constitution to extend her grip on power beyond 2010.

The crushing vote demonstrated the massive firepower of the consolidated administration majority in the House to advance its political objectives. The majority flexed its muscles and made the show of force three days before the adjournment of the second session of the 14th Congress. The vote on HR 1109 was given priority over important legislation awaiting approval in the last few days of the second session, among them, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms bill and the Right of Reply bill.

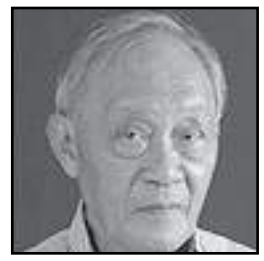
The fast-track ramming of the constituent assembly (Con-ass) was pushed in arrogant fashion, such that the resolution blatantly brushed aside the Senate's co-equal role with the House. The Constitution defines Congress as a bicameral body whose practices in the passage of legislation require separate votes by each chamber.

Prior to the House vote on the HR 1109, the Senate had passed Resolution 154 unanimously stating emphatically that "any attempt of the House to unilaterally propose amendments or revisions of the Constitution without the approval of the Senate, voting three-fourths separately, is unconstitutional." The House resolution galvanized the Senate into a solidified position to block the convening of the Con-ass. The House move sparked public outrage and opened the way to a test in the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of HR 1109. It provoked spontaneous street protests by a broad range of political groups and civil society organizations, denouncing the "gang-rape" of the Constitution by the House.

Although protest groups appeared and marched on the streets, their outrage did not approach the intensity and scale of the mass demonstrations in 2001, when the Senate impeachment tribunal sealed the brown envelope containing evidence of the bank accounts of then President Joseph Estrada during his impeachment trial. The suppression sparked an instantaneous combustion of public unrest, such that in a matter of hours several thousands assembled at EDSA (Epifanio delos Santos Avenue) demanding the ouster of Estrada. The unrest over the House resolution is expected to build up in the next few weeks during the congressional recess in the run-up to the State of the Nation Address (SONA) of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, which is scheduled to be delivered in the last week of July.

Speaker Prospero Nograles, who pushed the resolution, said that the purpose of the resolution was to get the Supreme Court to rule on the Con-ass issue. But there are questions over whether the Con-ass can be convened after the SONA in July. Although Nograles has justified the call for constitutional change with the need to realign the Charter's provisions with the requirements of economic development, there was nothing specific about this in the resolution. Critics have been reading in the constitutional change project a presidential agenda to extend Ms Arroyo's term beyond 2010.

The resolution offers a blank check on which to write objectives, including the shift from the presidential to the parliamentary system, which would allow the President to run for Parliament seat.



Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Her critics have asked the President to dissociate herself from the House resolution and to rein in her allies in the merged administration parties from rigging the implementing rules of the resolution. She remained coy, protesting that the resolution was a legislative project in which she cannot interfere out of respect for the separation of powers between the legislature and the executive.

The resolution states that while no specific proposals to amend the Constitution could formally be given due course unless and until this call to convene members of Congress is effected, it pledges that:

The term of offices of elected incumbent officials, including the President, shall not be extended, and there shall be elections in 2010. Some congressmen, including Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, said there was a big possibility that the four assurances or items pledged by the supporters of HR 1109 may be discarded once the Con-ass is convened.

One of the four is the assurance that the proposed amendments would not include the extension of terms of office of incumbent elective officials.

During the debates last Tuesday, Golez asked La Union Rep. Victor Ortega, one of the sponsors of the bill, for an assurance on these items, and Ortega answered: "I cannot promise anything. Anything can happen. It's on a trust basis. I can assure you of my pledge. But I cannot speak for others. You have to ask them." When asked if the 2010 election could be postponed by the constituent assembly, Cavite Rep. Elpidio Barzaga Jr., one of the sponsors of the bill, said, "Everything is possible. It depends upon the wisdom of the constituent assembly."

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia said the resolution said nothing, which made it dangerous. "What is the message of this resolution?" he asked. "Nothing. It is not saying that we seek a parliamentary government."

From these debates, the resolution comes off as a worthless document offering no more than a grand illusion.

EDITORIAL

Who trusts Malacañang?

When, on Dec. 7, 2006, the House of Representatives under Speaker Jose de Venecia rushed to adopt House Resolution 197, convening itself into a constituent assembly, the minority in the House did not lack for words to describe the outrage. Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño, for one, said the vote had pushed Congress to "unprecedented depths of opportunism, political patronage and brazen disregard for the rule of law."

That sorry, abysmal record held until June 2, 2009, when the House under Speaker Prospero Nograles rushed to adopt House Resolution 1109, convening itself into a constituent assembly. In doing so, "Nogie" and his troops, following marching orders, descended into new lows in opportunism, political patronage and the rape of the rule of law.

Both resolutions were not only rankly illegal but deeply immoral; they sought to dismiss the essential participation of the Senate, and they sought to benefit the congressmen's patron and the congressmen themselves. But the difference between the Charter change express of 2006 and that of 2009 is that the new train is light, streamlined. Whereas in 2006 the patently unconstitutional resolution included specific proposed constitutional amendments, the 2009 resolution contained nothing except the intention to convene as a constituent assembly.

To do what? Not even Nograles knows. He does not know when such a potentially historic (and politically calamitous) event would take place. "Maybe after the SONA (State of the Nation Address)," he said. How will one chamber convene as a constituent assembly? "It would have to be implemented. How, I don't know," he said. Even his lieutenants do not know what the next steps are, with some saying the resolution would be transmitted to the Senate, with others saying the House can proceed to convene, with invitations to attend sent to senators.

In other words, "Nogie" and his troops rushed into the breach for reasons that do not have anything to do with legislative strategy or social necessity or public interest or, even, personal conviction. Is it any wonder that talk about the mysterious release of money or pork barrel funds has only gotten louder in the last two days? The heart has its reasons which reason knows not, Pascal famously said. We can now add the 14th Congress corollary: Yes, and the pocket too.

From there we can draw a straight line to Malacañang.

Who else could have forced the House to jump off a constitutional cliff? (When Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo says jump, "Nogie" and his troops ask, "How high?")

The patter from Malacañang officials only reinforces growing public conviction that the President is behind this latest barbarism. The 2006 attempt to fast-track Charter change is one proof, out of many, that President Arroyo has in fact been trying for years to find a way to strengthen her grip on power.

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Garlic isn't an 'aswang'-repellant

Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II delivering a privilege speech on the floor of the Senate won't normally make headline news, but when he denounces "Con-asswang" wearing a necklace of garlic over his neatly pressed barong Tagalog, now that translates into multimedia spots. After this attention-grabbing stunt I opened my wallet, looked at Manuel Roxas on the face of my crisp 100-peso bills and wondered what the original Roxas, or even Gerry Roxas would say if they were alive today. They must be rolling in their graves with laughter before turning grim over the way some senators conduct themselves. There is a time and place for everything: "Mr. Palengke," and "Mr. Palengke on a padjak" are appropriate for TV, but garlic garlands on the Senate floor? Maybe my neighbor Conrad de Quiros is right when he says many Filipinos have lost the ability to appreciate irony and satire, but historians know that the Senate used to be a place where ideas incarnated by fine oratory dwelt, where reasoned, logical, and polite argument won the day. Maybe the MTV generation, with its highly visual sense and short attention span, requires different methods?

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Roxas hails from Capiz, traditionally believed to be the aswang center of the Philippines. Capiz tried to turn this negative image around and attempted to lure tourists into visiting the province during the annual "Aswang Festival" set around Halloween. Unfortunately, the Aswang Festival was scrapped in 2007 because some people, including influential clergy, believed it would encourage devil worship. Put these stray bits of information together and you realize that our past and our traditional culture are fast slipping away.

In the studies of the late Dr. Maxino D. Ramos, whose doctoral dissertation was on "Creatures of Lower Philippine Mythology," he noted that the belief in aswang goes beyond living memory and can be traced all the way back to the 16th century when Spanish friars, acting like ethnographers, wrote down the beliefs of the people they sought to convert.

As early as the 16th century we already had a list of different types of aswang and their characteristics. In 1892 Rizal wrote and illustrated an essay titled "The Treatment of the Bewitched," in which he gave his expert medical opinion on the ways and means of the neighborhood "mangkukulam" (witch doctor). Our aswang is not to be confused with the devil who did not exist as a concept or a Filipino belief until the Spanish friars introduced a new religion in the Philippines.

Based on his research, Dr. Ramos says that aswang is a generic term used to describe one of five creatures in Philippine lower mythology: Ghouls if they eat human corpses; vampires if they suck human blood; "viscera-sucker" if they prefer human internal organs and sputum; "weredogs" if they take the form of a dog, boar or any beast and eat their victims fresh and raw; and finally witches if they use spells and potions to kill people or make them ill.

Senator Roxas' staff who crafted his Con-asswang gimmick are obviously young and urban, they grew up on horror movies. Had they been from Capiz or had they been reared on aswang stories from their "yayas" (nannies) and grandmothers, they would know that the Philippine aswang is not repelled by a crucifix or garlic, which only works for vampires from Transylvania. To kill an aswang you do not drive a stake through its undead heart, rather you drive a sharpened bamboo spear into its back.

Furthermore, Filipinos never use garlic against the aswang. The traditional weapons are ginger and salt. This partly explains why Filipino males like to urinate in the most unlikely places. They are not marking their territory like dogs, but in an earlier time such a practice was meant as an anti-aswang method because urine was believed to contain enough salt to drive the aswang away. In this way holy water can also be used on an aswang, not so much because of the priest's blessing but due to the salt that is traditionally added to the holy water. Many priests today forget that salt is the essential ingredient in holy water.

Aswangs slowly disappeared from our consciousness as many parts of the country developed into urban spaces. The viscera-sucker or manananggal would prey on sleeping victims, particularly pregnant women, because the fetus in the womb was considered a specialty. First the manananggal would try to keep from falling on a steep thatched roof of a traditional bahay kubo or escape detection under the bamboo slat floor; their tongues would extend all the way into the sleeping quarters of the victims and once the tongue has punctured a body, the aswang would suck the entrails out of the victim very much like sipping water through a drinking straw. Unfortunately for the aswang today modern houses have tin roofs and concrete floors. Now out of business, they have probably become extinct like dinosaurs and dodo birds. Worse, as described in Jessica Zafra's wonderful story "Manananggal terrorizes Tondo," the aswang flying in a crowded urban setting gets caught up in the maze of electric wires and TV antennae! Now they may even bump into tarpaulin billboards that feature models showing off delicious flesh.

Garlic wont repel an aswang or Con-asswang, but an angry mob with sharpened bamboo spears and buntut-pagi (stingray tail whips) probably will.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Belated happy 4th birthday to Kyna Margareth Sales, who celebrated her birthday last June 3, 2009. Greetings come from Tatay, Nanay, Yoyi, Tito Soc, and Tito Jayvee

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to a wonderful man, father, and grandfather, Paterno Songao Hocog, who is celebrating his birthday today, June 6. "From the very first, you've been a steady and loving presence in our lives, helping us become what we are today. We owe more than we can ever say for your wonderful influence and love. May God bless you today and always!" With love, your children Angie & John (Joshua and John Jr.), Dre and Leng (Dee), Carrie and Vito Jr., PJ, Patty Beth, and Paterno Jr. (Son Boy).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 8th birthday to Jode Torres Reyes and congratulations on your outstanding academic achievements for School Year 2008-2009. "Keep it up and we are so proud of you. We love you and we hope enjoy your special day!" Greetings from your families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Trevor J. Kani, shown here with his Dad, for receiving the President's Academic Excellence Award as well as the Teacher's Choice Award for Family & Consumer Science presented to him on June 2, 2009, by the Farmwell Station Middle School in Virginia. "We are very proud of you and your achievements and wish you the best in your high school years! We love and miss you!" Greetings from Grandpa/Grandma (Leo and Mert Kani) and the rest of the families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday greetings to an amazing grandmother, Fermina Sasakura Mendiola, who will celebrate her birthday tomorrow, June 7. May God bless you on your birthday and each day all year through for all the thoughtful things you are and all the things you do. God bless you for your warmth and love, and more than any other, God bless you just for being you—a wonderful grandmother. En hahasso hao todu i tiempo espesiatmente gueni gi komplianos-mu. Yan en gagagao si Yu'us na un ni na'e mas minetgot-mu yan sensia-mu para i man mamaila' na tiempo. Sen Mas Na Guinaiya yan Minahalang—your grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to EJ Domingo for successfully completing the kindergarten at Golden Harvest International School. With him in this picture is younger brother Ezen during the promotions ceremonies last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations to Jun Vicente Mihara Chong on your graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy. "We are so proud of you!" From your nina and family.

MOTHEREAD/FATHEREAD GRADUATES
Parent trainers Lyzandra Barcinas and Merced DLGuerrero pose with the recent graduates of the Dandan Elementary School's Motheread/Fatheread Program: Katy Santos, Wilma Atalig, Wendie Escota, David Delvalleno, Samuel Masaii, Amoreleen Ulloa, and Ana Myrra Francisco. They completed 6-8 sessions from April 4 to May 23 at Dandan Elementary School every Saturday from 9am to 10:30am. The parents received certificates of completion, together with a tote bag with book gifts. They also received a gift from Dandan Elementary School of some stationary supplies that they will need to work on activities with their child/ren at home.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jamie Vales poses with her proud parents, Roger and Celia, during the Naval Academy Preparatory School graduation in Newport, Rhode Island. Jamie earned one of the highest achievements, the Class of 2009 Mathematics Award, for her outstanding academic performance. Jamie will continue to pursue her higher education at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland this July for her plebe year. "Congratulations, Jamie! May God continue to bless you. Good luck!"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOP GRADUATES
Chisa Kobayashi, left, and Maxine Alexandra Rabago are all smiles after receiving the President's and Principal's awards, respectively, during their kindergarten graduation at Eucon International School and College last May 29.

MONETTE DEPOSA

Young Style

KidsPost interview with Education Secretary Arne Duncan

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Two things were very important in Arne Duncan's life when he was a kid: school and basketball. That hasn't changed now that he is an adult.

Duncan, 44, is U.S. secretary of education in President Obama's Cabinet. That means he spends his days thinking about how to improve the schools that you and other kids in the United States attend.

"My job is to help make schools better and make sure that we have great teachers and principals in every school," he said. "I am convinced children will do extraordinarily well if given the chance."

The problem, Duncan said, is that not every child has the opportunity to attend a good school.

Duncan grew up in Chicago, where his father taught at the University of Chicago, and he attended a private school connected to the university—the same school that Obama's daughters went to before they moved to Washington.

Duncan spent a lot of time at a tutoring program his mother founded and ran for poor kids in the city. He also worked there during a year off from college. While working with his mother, Duncan learned that many kids aren't at good schools. He became determined to change that.

"We need more adults to believe how much potential every single child has," he said. "I don't know if adults believe in their hearts how much potential every single child has."

His passion for basketball led him to become co-captain of Harvard University's basketball team and, later, to play professional basketball in Australia. Duncan said that basketball taught him the importance of teamwork and discipline.

He returned to the United States and started working in education in Chicago, where he opened a school and then became the head of the city's school system. He stayed in the job from 2001 until 2008.

Obama, impressed with how Duncan worked to improve Chicago's schools, picked him to run the U.S. Education Department and its 4,200 employees.

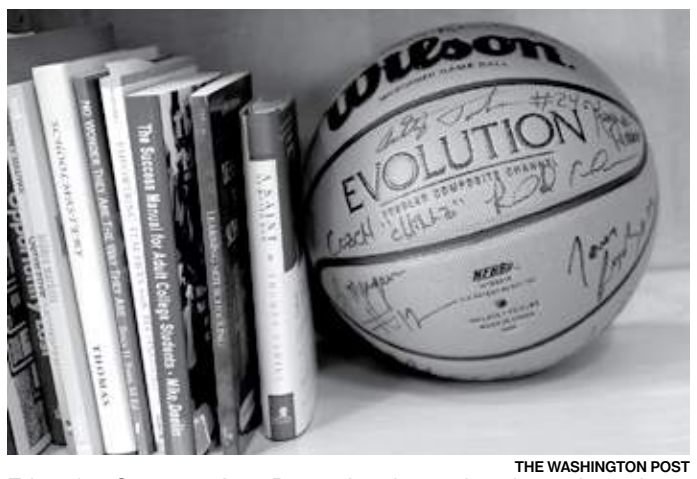
Part of his job is to distribute federal money to school systems nationwide. And he works with Obama to figure out ways to improve schools.

Duncan's workdays are jampacked. He doesn't spend much time at his desk. Instead, he's always busy with meetings and visits to schools. He has a huge white board on a wall in his office with a lot of lists, including things to do and people he is scheduled to meet—and people he wants to meet.

Duncan and his wife have two children, Clare, 7, and Ryan, 5. He still plays basketball—sometimes with Obama, who also loves to play. They usually play on the same team, Duncan said, and they usually win!

"We have some fun together," he said.

THE WASHINGTON POST
"We need more adults to believe how much potential every single child has," says Education Secretary Arne Duncan, shown in his office on Capitol Hill.



THE WASHINGTON POST
Education Secretary Arne Duncan's twin passions have always been education and basketball. A basketball signed by a championship high school team sits on his office shelf in Washington.

Meet Arne Duncan, Education Secretary

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Born: Chicago

Schools: University of Chicago Laboratory Schools, Harvard University

Nickname as a kid: Sometimes called A.D.

Favorite Pizza: cheese and sausage

Favorite Ice Cream: chocolate chip

Best Subject in School: English

Worst Subject in School: "Sitting still."

Favorite Song: U2's version of "Instant Karma"; he also enjoys Beyonce and Kanye West.

Favorite Sport: basketball

Favorite Movie: "Forrest Gump"

Who says female athletes can't finish first?

By FRED BOWEN
Special to The Washington Post

Bowen is an author of sports novels for kids.

Sports fans are disappointed that Rachel Alexandra, this year's superhorse, will not race Saturday in the Belmont Stakes, the third part of horse racing's Triple Crown.

Rachel Alexandra caused all sorts of excitement when she beat the Kentucky Derby winner, Mine That Bird, in the Preakness three weeks ago. Television ratings for the race were sky-high. Afterward, Rachel Alexandra even posed for Vogue, the fancy fashion magazine.

The reason for all the excitement is simple. Rachel Alexandra is a filly, a girl horse. Most of the top racehorses are colts, boy horses. It's always interesting and fun, even in a horse race, when the girls challenge the guys in sports.

Lots of girls compete against boys at younger ages in sports such as soccer, basketball and baseball. Did you see that recently a 12-year-old girl, Mackenzie Brown, threw a perfect game in the Bayonne, N.J., Little League? Brown struck out 12 of the 18 batters (all boys) she faced.

But it isn't often that women compete against men at the highest levels of professional sports. Top male athletes tend to be too strong and too fast for even the best female athletes.

Still, it does happen. Check out the jockeys riding those powerful racehorses. Some of them are women. Julie Krone, probably the greatest female jockey ever, was the first woman to win a Triple Crown race. Krone rode Colonial Affair to victory in the 1993 Belmont Stakes.

Similarly, three of the 33 drivers in this year's Indianapolis 500 auto race were women. Danica Patrick, who may be the most famous female race driver around, finished third.

Female professional golfers have, on occasion, played in the men's PGA events. A few years ago, Annika Sorenstam, maybe the greatest female golfer ever, competed in the Colonial golf tournament. And teen-ager Michelle Wie teed it up against the guys in several tournaments.

Men and women professional tennis players compete against each other in mixed doubles matches.

Tennis is also famous for another "Battle of the Sexes."

In the 1970s, a 55-year-old former Wimbledon tennis champion, Bobby Riggs, challenged the best women professional players. Riggs didn't think the female pros were very good. He easily defeated Margaret Court, the No. 1 women's player in the world. But later Billie Jean King trounced Riggs in straight sets, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3, before a huge crowd in Texas and a national television audience.

Last week boys and girls competed against each other in another sport: the National Spelling Bee. (Hey, spelling is as much a sport as chess.) Even ESPN covered the spelling bee. Anyway, Kavya Shivashankar, a 13-year-old girl from Kansas, won the championship by spelling "Laodicean" (which means "lukewarm or indifferent in religion or politics"). She beat 150 boys and 142 girls to take the title.

So from Rachel Alexandra to Kavya Shivashankar—and lots of women athletes in between—girls rule.

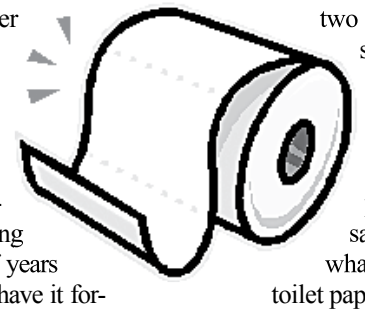
How toilet paper was invented

By HOWARD BENNETT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Ever wondered about the history of toilet paper?

If you're like most people, you take toilet paper for granted. After doing your business, you casually pull a length of paper off the roll. Then, a few wipes later, you're up and ready to go. Of course, if your mom or dad is in the vicinity, you will undoubtedly hear those words that kids love so much: "Don't forget to wash your hands and flush the toilet!"

Since most schools do not include the history of toilet paper in their curriculum, it's up to me to enlighten you. First, we should begin with a definition. According to Wikipedia, toilet paper is "a soft paper product used to maintain personal hygiene after human defecation or urination." I guess the folks at Wikipedia never shoved toilet paper up their nostrils to stop a bloody nose or used it to squash tiny spiders.



Toilet paper has had an odd history. Do you remember that the Romans invented plumbing thousands of years ago, only to have it forgotten for centuries? Well, it appears that something similar happened with toilet paper.

The first recorded use of toilet paper appears to have occurred in China around A.D. 851. After that, nothing much was written about the practice until the 14th century rolled around. During the Ming dynasty (1368-1644) special sheets of toilet tissue were fashioned for the imperial court. They were made of soft fabric that was cut into squares two by three feet in size.

The rest of the world wasn't as lucky as Chinese royalty. Here is a partial (or should I say painful?) list of what was used before toilet paper caught on:

■ Romans in public baths used a saltwater-soaked sponge on a stick.

■ English nobility used pages from books.

■ Common folk in the Middle Ages used straw, hay and grass.

■ Sailors used the frayed end of an old anchor cable.

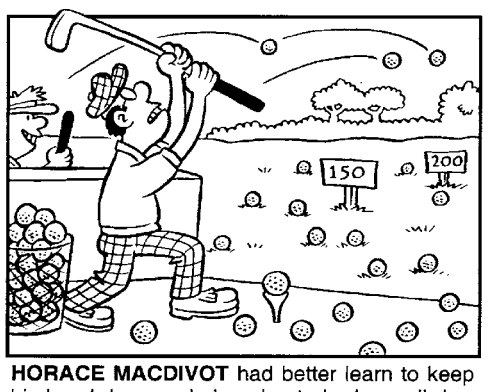
■ Americans used corncobs, newspapers, leaves and pages from the Sears Roebuck catalog.

■ French royalty used lace.

■ Wealthy people in many countries used perfumed wool.

The invention of modern toilet paper did not occur until 1857, when Joseph Gayetty sold his medicated paper in packages of flat sheets. Evidently, most people saw no reason to pay for Gayetty's product when they had free alternatives lying all over the house. It wasn't until the Scott Co. came out with rolls of toilet paper in 1890 that the public saw the true value of this invention. Thank heavens for Mr. Scott!

Bennett is a Washington pediatrician and author of health-related books for kids.



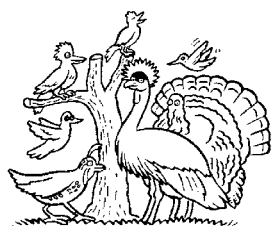
HORACE MACDIVOT had better learn to keep his head down or he's going to be here all day. How many golf balls can you find in the above picture?

Answer: We found 41.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

AN AVIARY ASSIGNMENT!



Illustrated by David Coulson

I know that this quiz is for the birds, but try it anyway. Using the following hints, can you tell us:

WHAT BIRD ...

1. loves to sing?
2. is very religious?
3. eats the most?
4. is the best ocean hunter?
5. could work in an office?
6. would make a good tailor?
7. can carry a tune?
8. can lift heavy weights?
9. likes a good time?
10. shrinks from danger?

Answers: 1. The warbler. 2. The cardinal. 3. A (turkey) gobbler. 4. The kingfisher. 5. A secretary bird. 6. The weaverbird. 7. A hummingbird. 8. A crane. 9. The lark. 10. The quail.

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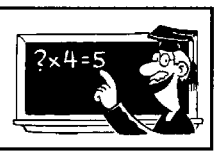
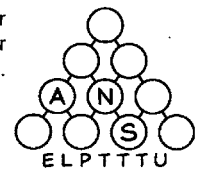
FIDGETY DIGITY! The Professor wants you to find a three-digit number that, when multiplied by four, will give you five. You have one minute!



Answer: 1.25 x 4 = 5

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Peal, peat, pent, pens, punt, puns, puts, putt.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Clay Ewing, president of a community bank in Indiana, who recently made the following sage observation: "Banking should not be exciting. If banking is exciting, there is something wrong with it."

■ James Arness, star of the iconic American TV series "Gunsmoke," was more than six and a half feet tall—so tall, in fact, that the makers of the show frequently had him stand in a hole during his scenes so he wouldn't tower over his co-stars.

■ The form-fitting synthetic fabric commonly known as spandex was so named because it's an anagram of "expands."

■ When you think of a dog herding cattle or sheep, the image in your mind is probably a border collie, a breed well-known for its herding capabilities. You might be surprised to learn that Dalmations, too, were once used to herd livestock. In fact, that's why they've become an icon of firefighters everywhere. Back when fire engines were actually wagons drawn by teams of horses, Dalmations accompanied the firefighters to the scene of a disaster in order to herd the horses to a safe place until the blaze was brought under control.

■ Recorders of crime statistics say that the top three cities in the United States in terms of cars being stolen are Modesto, Calif.; Las Vegas; and San Diego.

■ If, like many Americans these days, you're carrying around some extra weight, here's an added incentive to lose those love handles: For every 50 pounds your car loses from its payload, you'll get about a 1 percent improvement in gas mileage. Of course, you could just clean out any junk that's been cluttering up the trunk instead.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Like cars in amusement parks, our direction is often determined through collisions."—Yahia Lababidi

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MAGIC MAZE ● OVER 6 FOOT 3 INCHES TALL

L B Y V D O O W T S A E T Q O
L I G D B Y S Y R R E K W T R
P H A S S E L H O F F O M K E
I K F D H R U B B S N Y W U S
S Q C G R D O O B G S M K I E
F D U E S B Z N I X W E U S E
Q H D O L O T R N L O C N I L
H A N N L L R E S O J H F R C
N D C A Y E E T S W C V T S A
Q P N L F K E S A H C C I H F
E C B Z Y W V H U S R Q P N M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Arness	Ferrigno	Kerry	Selleck
C. Chase	H. Hughes	Lincoln	T. Robbins
C. Connors	H. Stern	Nader	Tesh
Cleese	Hasselhoff	R. Hudson	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	−		x		15
÷		+		x	
	+		x		18
+		x		−	
	÷		x		21
16		18		23	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 9

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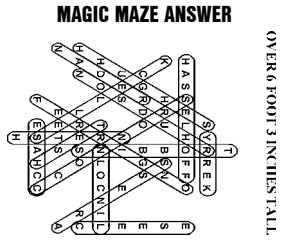
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

7	−	4	x	5	15
÷		+		x	
1	+	2	x	6	18
+		x		−	
9	÷	3	x	7	21
16		18		23	

Topical treatments for flea prevention

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: You recently wrote a long explanation of how to get rid of fleas on pets and in the house. I have two very large (more than 100 pounds) dogs, very furry, Great Pyrenees. I also have seven cats. I have found with the recent developments in treatments, none of the measures you listed are necessary.

I have one cat that is hypersensitive to flea saliva. I keep an eye on him, and when I notice the little telltale bumps just at the base of his tail, I know we have been infested. I immediately treat all of the animals with either Frontline or Advantage. End of story. No sprays, no bombs, no bathing fighting cats.

The topical stuff applied between their shoulderblades kills the fleas on them. The remaining fleas in the house and yard jump on the animals to feed, and then are killed. I never have to treat anything but my animals. Even my car interior is fine. The stuff lasts 30 days. I simply treat again as many times as necessary until the frost comes and flea season is over.

As long as my pets are treated regularly, I don't have to worry about any hatching eggs: They just hatch, feed and die. So simple and easy. I hope you will consider suggesting this course of treatment. All of the steps you listed easily could discourage someone from becoming a pet owner, and it does not have to be so difficult and time-consuming.—Debbie S., via e-mail

DEAR DEBBIE: Thanks! Actually, I have recommended topical treatments in the past and used them on my own pets with similar success. However, many of my readers are leery of using a topical treatment, and others tell me it didn't work at all, particularly with outdoor pets. For them, alternative prevention and treatment methods must be explored.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Welcome new baby with wearable art

Is there soon to be a new baby in the house? As the new member joins the family, the household may feel as if it's been turned upside down. But if you keep older children involved, they'll be part of the transition right along with you.

Here's an activity for including older siblings in welcoming that newborn. Just sit down together and decorate baby's first one-piece cotton outfits. You'll be dressing the baby with creative pizzazz, and the siblings will be proud of being part of it all.

Here's the basic inexpensive stuff you'll need for one outfit:

■ Prewashed, solid-color or white 100 percent cotton baby one-piece style outfit with snaps, or you may use a newborn-size cotton T-shirt
■ Wax paper or cardboard
■ Cookie cutters
■ Fabric paints in squeeze bottles
■ Paper plate
■ Small foam paintbrushes or sponges clipped to clothespins
■ Pencil with eraser

Here's the fun:

1. Lay the one-piece outfit or T-shirt on a work surface. Place a piece of cardboard or wax paper between the two layers of fabric to protect the reverse side from any paint that may soak through. Choose a cookie cutter for a stencil. A star, moon, heart, duckling! Anything goes. Place it anywhere on the fabric.

2. Pour a little permanent fabric paint onto a paper plate. Dip in the small foam paintbrush. Holding the cookie cutter firmly, start dab, dab-dabbing inside it, making sure to reach all the edges. You don't have to put equal density of paint all over the shape. A little variation actually adds interest. When you're through, lift the cookie cutter up to see the beautiful design. Now it's time for a few details.

3. Dunk the eraser end of the pencil in a little paint. It can be the same color you used for the cookie-cutter shape or a completely different one. Then stamp it along the neck or sleeves for a fun, whimsical border.

4. Add a few final details with the fabric squeeze bottles. You might want to write "Wee One" on the heart. Or, write the baby's name and date of birth. When baby wears it, take a photo to use for clever birth announcements.

5. Once the paint is dry, remove the cardboard or wax paper, and if the paint bottles say to do so, now is the time to iron on the reverse side to set the color.

You're done! Dress the baby in the wearable art, and notice the joy of an older sibling who is feeling just grand.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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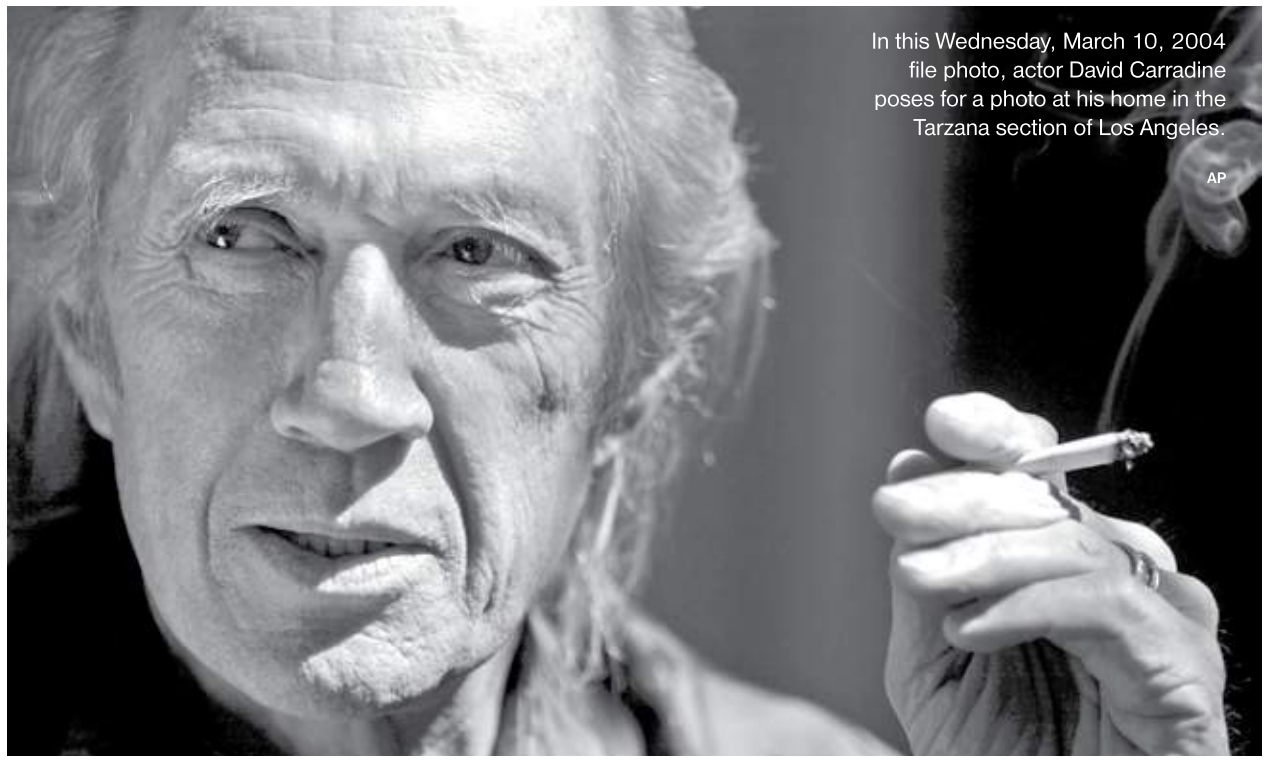
Life & Style



In this Wednesday, March 10, 2004 file photo, actor David Carradine poses for a photo at his home in the Tarzana section of Los Angeles.

AP

Actor David Carradine found dead in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP)—Actor David Carradine, a born seeker and cult idol who broke through as the willing student called "grasshopper" in the 1970s TV series "Kung Fu" and decades later as leader of an assassin squad in "Kill Bill," was found dead Thursday in Thailand. Police said he appeared to have hanged himself.

The officer responsible for investigating the death, Lt. Teerapop Luanseng, said the 72-year-old actor had been staying in a suite at the luxury Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel.

"I can confirm that we found his body, naked, hanging in the closet," Teerapop said. He said police suspected suicide.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy, Michael Turner, said the embassy was informed by Thai authorities that Carradine died either late Wednesday or early Thursday. "We send our heartfelt condolences to his family and his loved ones," he said.

Carradine came from an acting family. His father, John, made a career playing creepy, eccentric characters in film and on stage. His brothers Keith, Robert and Bruce also became actors. Actress Martha Plimpton is Keith Carradine's daughter.

"My Uncle David was a brilliantly talented, fiercely intelligent and generous man. He was the nexus of our family in so many ways, and drew us together over the years and kept us connected," Plimpton said Thursday.

Carradine was "in good spirits" when he left the U.S. for Thailand on May 29 to work on the movie "Stretch," said Tiffany Smith of Binder & Associates, his managers.

"David was excited to do it and excited to be a part of it," she said by phone from Beverly Hills, noting that Carradine was the sole featured American in the movie, whose other top cast members were French and Chinese. "When he was on a set he was in heaven."

Filming on the thriller by French director Charles de Meaux began Tuesday, she said, adding that the crew was devastated by Carradine's death and did not wish to speak publicly about it for the time being.

"It is shocking to me that he is no longer with us," said Michael Madsen, who played an assassin in "Kill Bill."

"I have so many great memories of David that I wouldn't even know where to begin," he said. "He has a very special place in my heart."

The Web site of the Thai newspaper The Nation said Carradine could not be contacted after he failed to appear for a meal with the rest of the film crew on Wednesday, and that his body was found by a hotel maid Thursday morning. It said a preliminary police investigation found that he had hanged himself with a cord used with the suite's curtains and that there was no sign that he had been assaulted.

Police said Carradine's body was taken to a hospital for an autopsy that would be done Friday.

Carradine appeared in more than 100 feature films with such directors as Martin Scorsese, Ingmar Bergman and Hal Ashby. One of his early film roles was as folk singer Woody Guthrie in Ashby's 1976 biopic, "Bound for Glory."

But he was best known for his role as Kwai Chang Caine, a Shaolin priest traveling the 1800s American frontier West in the TV series "Kung Fu," which aired in 1972-75.

"I wasn't like a TV star in those days, I was like a rock 'n' roll star," Carradine said in an interview with Associated Press Radio in 1996. "It was a phenomenon kind of thing. ... It was very special."

Actor Rainn Wilson, star of TV's "The Office," tweeted about Carradine's death on Twitter: "R.I.P. David Carradine. You were a true hero to so many of us children of the 70s. We'll miss you, Kwai Chang Caine."

Carradine reprised the role in a mid-1980s TV movie and played Caine's grandson in the 1990s syndicated series "Kung Fu: The Legend Continues."

He returned to the top in recent years as the title character in Quentin Tarantino's two-part saga "Kill Bill." Bill, the worldly father figure of a pack of crack assassins, was a shadowy presence in 2003's "Kill Bill—Vol. 1." In that film, one of Bill's former assassins (Uma Thurman) begins a vengeful rampage against her old associates, including Bill.

In "Kill Bill—Vol. 2," released in 2004, Thurman's character catches up to Bill. The role brought Carradine a Golden Globe nomination as best supporting actor.

Bill was a complete contrast to Caine, the soft-spoken refugee from a Shaolin monastery, serenely spreading wisdom and battling bad guys in the Old West. He left after three seasons, saying the show had started to repeat itself.

"David's always been kind of a seeker of knowledge and of wisdom in his own inimitable way," his brother, actor Keith Carradine, said in a 1995 interview.

After "Kung Fu," Carradine starred in the 1975 cult flick "Death Race 2000." He starred with Liv Ullmann in Bergman's "The Serpent's Egg" in 1977 and with his brothers in the 1980 Western "The Long Riders."

But after the early 1980s, he spent two decades doing mostly low-budget films. Tarantino's films changed that.

"All I've ever needed since I more or less retired from studio films a couple of decades ago ... is just to be in one," Carradine told The Associated Press in 2004.

"There isn't anything that Anthony Hopkins or Clint Eastwood or Sean Connery or any of those old guys are doing that I couldn't do," he said. "All that was ever required was somebody with Quentin's courage to take and put me in the spotlight."

One thing remained a constant after "Kung Fu": Carradine's interest in Asian herbs, exercise and philosophy. He wrote a personal memoir called "Spirit of Shaolin" and continued to make instructional videos on tai chi and other martial arts.

In the 2004 interview, Carradine talked candidly about his past boozing and narcotics use, but said he had put all that behind him and stuck to coffee and cigarettes.

"I didn't like the way I looked, for one thing. You're kind of out of control emotionally when you drink that much. I was quicker to anger."

"You're probably witnessing the last time I will ever answer those questions," Carradine said. "Because this is a regeneration. It is a renaissance. It is the start of a new career for me.

"It's time to do nothing but look forward."

NY clarinetist sets standard for Guinness record

NEW YORK (AP)—An unusual new category has been added to the Guinness World Records: longest career as a clarinetist.

The standard was set by Stanley Drucker, principal clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic, who is retiring at 80 after playing more than 10,000 concerts with the orchestra in his 62-year career.

Drucker

On Thursday evening at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Drucker was soloist with the Philharmonic in Aaron Copland's Clarinet Concerto.

The new Guinness record was announced just after his performance, with the text: "The longest career as a clarinetist was achieved by Stanley Drucker (USA, b. 4 February 1929) who performed professionally for 62 years, 7 months, 1 day as of June 4, 2009."

From the stage, Drucker said, "This is unbelievable. I want to thank everyone in front of the stage, on the stage and backstage for giving me these memories of an amazing time, something that will stay with me for my lifetime."

Drucker has been with the orchestra longer than any other Philharmonic musician, heard live by more than 40 million people at more than 10,200 concerts. That's equivalent to 70 percent of all Philharmonic concerts since America's oldest orchestra was founded in 1842.

Drucker's final concert with the orchestra is to be on July 31 in Vail, Colo., where the Philharmonic plays during the summer.

He was 19 when he joined the orchestra in 1948 and was named principal clarinet in 1960 by Leonard Bernstein. Drucker has played under 400 conductors, from Bruno Walter and Zubin Mehta to the current, outgoing music director, Lorin Maazel.

Drucker's son, Leon, attained musical fame of his own as the longtime bassist for the rockabilly revival trio the Stray Cats, performing under the name Lee Rocker.

Celebrity classic cars auctioned in Connecticut

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Clark Gable loved beautiful cars, but his 1938 Packard convertible was apparently too popular with his legions of female fans.

The actor was so overwhelmed by women following him whenever he drove the car that he sold it after a few months, according to the auctioneer Bonhams.

"I think he eventually bought a sedate sedan that was enclosed that he could hide in," said Rupert Banner, vice president for Bonhams. "It's rather sad."

Gable's car is among those with celebrity connections that will be sold Sunday at the annual Greenwich Concours d'Elegance auction. Its estimated value is $175,000 to $225,000.

A 1928 Rolls Royce Phantom 1 Ascot Tourer driven by Robert Redford in the 1974 movie of "The Great Gatsby" to symbolize the roaring 1920s is expected to fetch $150,000 to $175,000.

A 1939 Cadillac limousine featured in the 2006 Robert Deniro film, "The Good Shepherd," is also for sale. Greer Garson used the car earlier, so the rear compartment was appointed in red silk to match the starlet's favorite color.

The auction, expected to generate $5 million to $6 million in sales, will feature more than 80 collector cars spanning 77 years from one of the earliest Fords to a 1980s Aston Martin. President Woodrow Wilson's Rolls Royce Silver Ghost is for sale.

"This is going to be one of the biggest sales of the year," said Maria Writesel, a Bonhams spokeswoman. "It encompasses the whole history of the automobile. We're going to get bidders from all over the world."

Among the cars with celebrity connections, most were owned by the late Ted Leonard, who owned a car dealership in Seekonk, Mass.

"To assemble so many cars with that celebrity connection would be near impossible today," said Banner, who noted that the Internet has broadened bidding. "It would be almost impossible to be the winning bidder on each of these cars today."

Leonard's daughter, Cindy, said her father taught Redford how to drive the Rolls Royce, which had a choke and mechanical controls on the steering wheel.

"I think he called him a heavy foot or something like that," Leonard recalled her father saying of Redford. "It is very, very difficult to get used to."

Leonard said her father loved beautiful and rare cars.

"He was always looking out for the best of the best," she said. "It showed his romanticism, his passion for beautiful things and his passion for life."

The cars drew plenty of stares, waves and horn beeps.

"My kids would always say when they were with Grandpa they felt like celebrities," Leonard said.

Leonard said the family decided to sell the cars after her father, who began his collection in the 1960s, died two years ago. About a dozen of his cars are for sale at the auction.

Rick Carey, who researched the cars for the auction house, said Gable's car was unique with a long hood and other features designed by Howard "Dutch" Darrin. Gable showed up to see the car being built with his actress wife Carole Lombard, "which completely distracted work in the shop," he said.

Darrin said Gable and the black car with a red leather interior were so instantly recognizable that he would get followed, according to Carey.

Cars with celebrity connections have a higher value, Carey said.

Jolie overtakes Winfrey on Forbes' Celebrity 100

NEW YORK (AP)—Angelina Jolie has dethroned Oprah Winfrey as the world's most powerful celebrity, according to Forbes.

The actress grabbed the No. 1 spot from the talk show queen on the magazine's annual Celebrity 100 list, which ranks the rich and famous based on media exposure and career earnings over the past year.

Jolie, a reigning tabloid fixture, earned $27 million, bumping her up from third place on last year's list, Forbes said, adding that she wields more power due to high-profile turns in hit films such as "Wanted" and "Kung Fu Panda."

Jolie

At No. 2, Winfrey is still the highest earner—$275 million.

Madonna came in third, trailed by Beyonce, Tiger Woods, Bruce Springsteen and Steven Spielberg.

Two other celebs tied up in Jolie's tabloid universe—Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt—came in at eighth and ninth place, respectively.

Tenth place goes to Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant, thanks in part to endorsement deals scored after the Beijing Olympics.

About halfway down the list sits a very familiar face: President Barack Obama. At No. 49, Obama's the first sitting head of state to appear on this Forbes fixture because of his worldwide fame, his historic election and his career as a best-selling author.

Newcomers to the list: Alec Baldwin (No. 91); Meryl Streep (No. 64); Toby Keith (No. 59); Rascal Flatts (No. 42); TV host Glenn Beck (No. 81); and teen singing superstar Taylor Swift (No. 69).

Although he's one of the biggest acts in entertainment, Justin Timberlake went from 12th to falling off the list completely, since ending his lucrative "FutureSex/LoveShow" concert tour.

Jennifer Lopez, Johnny Depp and Tyra Banks also dropped off the list.

Nude Carla Bruni photo auctioned in Berlin

BERLIN (AP)—A revealing photograph of former model and France's current first lady Carla Bruni was bought for $19,600 by an anonymous bidder Thursday at a Berlin auction house.

The image is one of 10 prints of a nude Bruni lounging in an unmade bed captured by American fashion photographer Pamela Hanson in 1994.

The Villa Grisebach auction house appraised "Carla Bruni in Bed" at $3,568-$4,997 and talked to prospective buyers from as far away as Mexico, according to the house's photography expert, Franziska Schmidt.

"I really don't know why there is such a hype," Schmidt said. "For us it is not the highlight."

Last year, Christie's auction house in New York sold a different nude print of Bruni for 30 times more than anticipated. An anonymous bidder paid $91,000 for the photograph.

Villa Grisebach would not provide any information on the winning bidder Thursday.

AP

A woman, name not given, shows a nude photo of Carla Bruni, taken by US photographer Pamela Hanson, at the show room of the Villa Griesebach Auction in Berlin on Tuesday, June 2009.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Whitney Houston's new album due in September

NEW YORK (AP)—The date for Whitney Houston's comeback has been set. Arista Records says her long-awaited album will be released Sept. 1. Houston hasn't released a CD in seven years. So far, there's no word on a title for the album. The 45-year-old superstar is one of the best-selling artists of all-time, but in recent years, she's been defined more by drug problems, marital woes and erratic behavior than by her Grammy-winning voice. But lately, Houston has appeared to return to her pop princess form. She wowed the crowd when she performed at her mentor Clive Davis' pre-Grammy party in February.

Terri Seymour attacker pleads guilty

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman who attacked Terri Seymour outside the "American Idol" finale has pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery. Janice Thibodeaux (Tibo-DOH') entered the plea Thursday in Los Angeles. She was sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to take anger management classes. The 33-year-old was also ordered to stay away from Seymour, an ex-girlfriend of Simon Cowell and an "Extra" correspondent. Thibodeaux told RadarOnline.com that she attacked Seymour on May 19 as revenge for Cowell playfully choking fellow Idol judge Paula Abdul on the show a week earlier. Police arrested her after seeing her try to choke Seymour, who is also seeking a lengthy civil restraining order.

Shia LaBeouf to star in 'Wall Street' follow up

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shia LaBeouf is heading to Wall Street. The actor confirms he will appear in "Money Never Sleeps," director Oliver Stone's follow up to "Wall Street." LaBeouf will star opposite Michael Douglas, who won an Oscar for his role in the original 1987 film. The "Transformers" star describes the film as "a walk and talk money movie" that's "wordy and heady." Filming begins in August, an experience LaBeouf says should be like taking a college course—he says he has "no concept" of the ins and outs of the financial world "I don't know what ... a credit derivative is," LaBeouf said. "I have no idea. I don't know what a CPO is. IPB. LVC. You gotta know ticker names."

Rock the vote: Nirvana bassist seeks county office

CATHLAMET, Wash. (AP)—Nirvana's former bassist is running for clerk of a rural county to protest Washington state's method of letting candidates name their own party affiliation. Krist Novoselic (noh-voh-SEL'-ik) is running for clerk of Wahkiakum (wah-KAI'-ah-kum) County in western Washington. Novoselic is head of his local chapter of the Grange, a civic organization. His election paperwork declares that he's running under the "Grange Party" banner, even though the Grange isn't a political party. Novoselic tells The Daily World newspaper that he's protesting the state's system that lets candidates say what party they prefer when running for office. He says that's confusing for voters and lets candidates appropriate the names of private associations.

Philip Berk elected Hollywood Foreign Press head

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Philip Berk is taking on another term as president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the 83-member organization that puts on the annual Golden Globe awards. He has previously served six one-year terms as president and has been a member of the association for 32 years. Berk is a correspondent for entertainment publications in Australia, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

High school sweethearts set their sights on different goals

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am 21 and have been with my high school sweetheart, "Andy," for six years. I can see myself with him for the rest of my life, but there's a problem. I am very career-oriented and have big dreams for going far, but Andy is the complete opposite. He didn't finish school and is content with a low-paying job for his "career."

I was always raised to reach for the stars, but Andy's parents are not educated, so he sees no reason to go back to school. I have spoken to him several times about my goals. He is supportive, but has no plans on doing anything for himself.

Abby, what should I do? Should I stay with Andy and lower my dreams or give up on him? Did I mention that he has no one to depend on but me? How do I let him go? Besides this issue, our relationship is perfect. Please help.

GOAL-ORIENTED GAL IN DALLAS

DEAR GOAL-ORIENTED: Many women are the primary wage-earners in their families. And I know of happy marriages between couples with differing levels of education.

You are responsible for your future, and Andy is responsible for his. It's time to be honest with yourself about your feelings. To marry someone because "he has no one to depend on but you" is a poor reason. My intuition tells me you want out. Do you? If the answer is yes, the time to tell Andy is now.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When seated at a dinner table where the food is served "family style," which is the proper way of passing the dishes—to the left or to the right? I have yet to sit at such a dinner and have the plates come from one direction. They come at me from both sides!

I have a tendency to pass to the left. I am right-handed, and I hold the dish to my left and take my portions with my right hand. Because the plate is already to my left, I pass it to the left. I have also gone to some dinners where the plates were passed back and forth across the table.

Is there a correct way of passing food around the table?

LEFT OR RIGHT? IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LEFT OR RIGHT?: According to "Emily Post's Etiquette" (which I'll paraphrase), the dishes are "traditionally" passed to the right (counterclockwise) so they move in one direction. After helping him- or herself, each diner holds the dish for the next diner or hands the dish to the person to the right so that person can take a portion. If the dish is heavy, it can be placed on the table with each pass. Any dish that has a handle should be passed so the handle faces the person receiving it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My favorite sister-in-law is now a two-year cancer survivor. We are thrilled that she's doing so well. But she still has her short "cancer haircut."

Abby, she has fabulous hair, but won't let it grow out. I know this may seem trivial, but she'd look like a million bucks if she'd allow her hair to get longer. She's such a special lady, none of the family want to tell her anything but how great she is. Should I keep my opinion to myself?

LOVING RELATIVE IN KANSAS CITY

DEAR LOVING RELATIVE: Your sister-in-law's reasons for keeping her hair short may be practical, or they could be emotional. Please realize that advice which is unasked for is often unwelcome and keep your mouth shut. She'll let her hair grow out when she's ready.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WELL, WE'RE SURELY IN SOME OTHER STATE BY NOW. LET'S STOP HERE.
BOY, IT NEVER ONCE OCCURRED TO ME THAT I'D BE SPENDING THE REST OF MY LIFE ON THE LAM.
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
SPEAKING OF LAMB, WHAT KIND OF SANDWICHES DID YOU BRING?
HOW CAN YOU THINK OF EATING? I'M SO WORRIED I FEEL SICK.
REALLY? CAN I HAVE YOUR SANDWICH TOO?
SIX YEARS OLD AND A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
6/6

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

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JIM DAVIS 6-6
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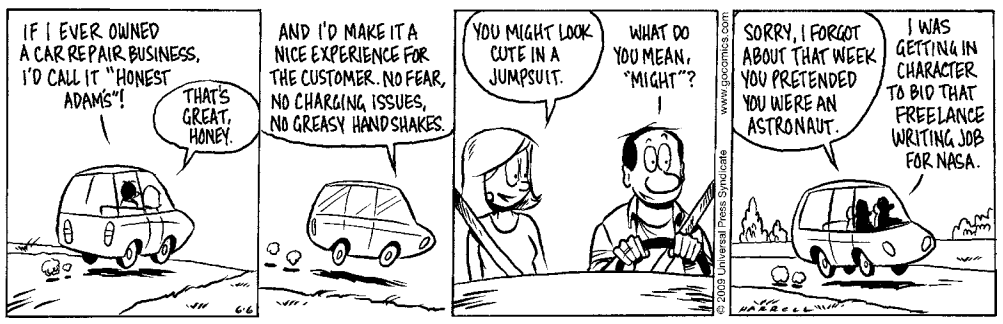
YOU DON'T GRASP THE CONCEPT OF SMALL SNACK, DO YOU?
NO, THANK GOODNESS!

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IF I EVER OWNED A CAR REPAIR BUSINESS, I'D CALL IT "HONEST ADAMS"!
THAT'S GREAT, HONEY.
6-6
AND I'D MAKE IT A NICE EXPERIENCE FOR THE CUSTOMER. NO FEAR, NO CHARGING ISSUES, NO GREASY HANDSHAKES.
YOU MIGHT LOOK CUTE IN A JUMPSUIT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "MIGHT"?
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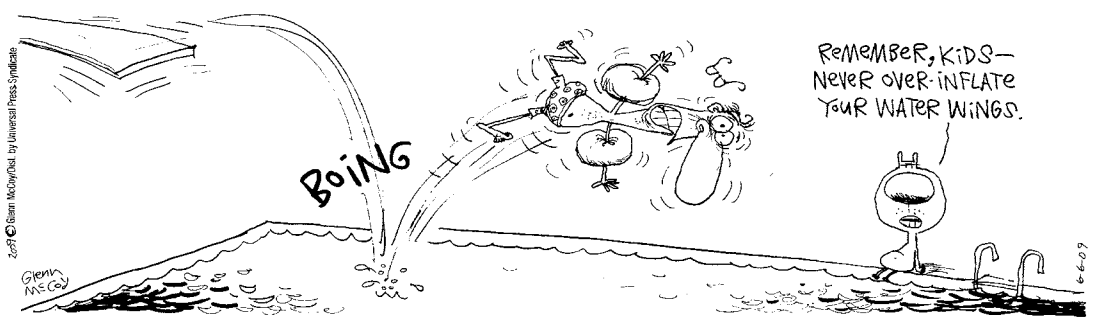
www.gocomics.com
SORRY, I FORGOT ABOUT THAT WEEK YOU PRETENDED YOU WERE AN ASTRONAUT.
I WAS GETTING IN CHARACTER TO BID THAT FREELANCE WRITING JOB FOR NASA.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

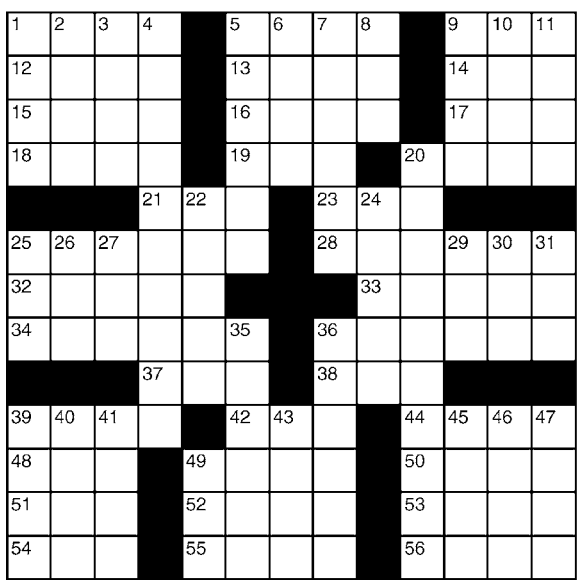
ACROSS
1 Takes the wrong way?
5 One-time Clinton opponent
9 Expert
12 Mideast nation
13 Redact
14 Prune
15 Carte
16 Green or Rogen
17 Place-kicker's pride
18 Pop
19 Doctrine
20 Memory method
21 Erstwhile garment
23 Roswell sighting
25 New
28 Mill-stream passage
32 Battery terminal
33 Bygone Peruvians
34 Brief period
36 Start a paragraph
37 Distant
38 Time of your life?
39 Fox-worthy or Daniels
42 Resistance measure
44 Showroom sample
48 Citric quaff
49 Has bills
50 Elliptical
51 Understanding
52 Largest of the seven
53 All you can eat
54 Remnant
55 Expression
56 Dog bane?

DOWN
1 Edges
2 Double Stuf cookie
3 Combo
4 Fought
5 Blueprint
6 Praiseful verses
7 Acid-test paper
8 Biblical verb suffix
9 Sax range
10 Geezer
11 Duel tool
20 Approximated, in a way
22 Where the action is
24 Pitch
25 More, to Manuel
26 Indivisible
27 "What's up, —?"
29 Bar supply
30 Has the skills
31 Atl. coast hrs.
35 Nod off
36 2001 Sean Penn movie
39 Hunky-dory (Sl.)
40 Paradise
41 — for oneself
43 Estate recipient
45 Satan's forte
46 Guy
47 Earthenware pot
49 Feedbag morsel

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	A	C	■	S	A	G	A	■	A	C	H	E	
E	G	O	■	T	H	A	W	■	L	O	A	D	
C	A	L	L	I	O	P	E	■	K	I	N	D	
■	■	O	I	L	Y	■	■	D	A	N	D	Y	
S	P	R	E	E	■	S	A	U	L	■	■	■	
P	U	F	F	■	C	A	L	L	I	S	T	O	
E	M	U	■	F	O	L	L	Y	■	M	O	W	
C	A	L	L	O	W	A	Y	■	R	O	L	L	
■	■	■	A	U	L	D	■	P	O	O	L	S	
A	N	N	U	L	■	■	E	A	S	T	■	■	
D	O	O	R	■	C	A	L	L	A	H	A	N	
A	N	T	E	■	A	P	S	E	■	L	Y	E	
M	E	A	L	■	R	E	E	D	■	Y	E	W	

Yesterday's answer 6-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Staci Keanan, 34; Paul Giamatti, 42; Max Casella, 42; Sandra Bernhard, 54

Happy Birthday: The pressure will be on to show what you can offer and how efficient you can be under difficult circumstances. Personal and professional changes can be used to your advantage. An added responsibility should be looked at as a plus, not a minus. Your hard work is worth every little extra you get. Your numbers are 4, 6, 15, 22, 25, 38, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Check out any financial deal you are considering. The chance of getting involved in a scam is likely. You can come into money but it won't be by investing in someone else's scheme. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may have to rework your schedule to avoid a sticky situation you aren't equipped to deal with just yet. Get a better handle on this situation but don't try to fix something you don't understand. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let stress get the better of you. Consider who can pitch in and help and who will hold you back. Right now, there is no room for error or time to waste. Make a move before someone else beats you to the finish line. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you believe in what you are doing, you will succeed. A worthy cause will bring you closer to people who have the same allegiance as you. Don't flinch because someone alters plans. Last-minute changes will be to your benefit. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Mingle and network with people willing to try new things and you will find the perfect fit for a project you want to incorporate into your plans. Don't be daunted by the less creative or negative type of person who has little to contribute. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Focus on what needs to be done. By working hard and being positive, you will attract people who have something to offer and can help cut your workload. A geographical move will open doors to a better future. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Socializing will pay off in terms of who you meet and the future prospects you can set up. Self-improvement projects or a little pampering will do you a world of good and will help you gain the confidence you need to project what you want. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): If anyone thinks you are shirking what needs to be done, you will lose ground, so take your responsibilities seriously. Face challenges head-on, showing your strength, courage and determination. With the confidence of others, nothing will stand in your way. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Do what you must to get what you want but don't let anyone pressure you into taking on more than you can handle. Simplicity will be the fastest route to stardom. Money issues will arise if you spend too much on luxuries you don't need. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make some alterations at home that are conducive to the things you are trying to accomplish. A little renovation will please everyone and provide a space that encourages efficiency. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone is probably withholding information that you need to make a decision. Don't feel guilty or pressured by what someone does or says. An experienced individual will give you an interesting assessment of your personal situation. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Travel will help inspire you for an idea you have to make your life better. Make the first move to fix a problem you face. Accept ideas that are being offered but don't give in to someone unwilling to compromise. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed and passionate and know what you want. You are stubborn and can convince others to see things your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8	2	9					
							4	
		4			1			2
			2			9		4
3				8				1
1		6			5			
7			5			8		
	3							
					9	1	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	3	8	4	6	1	7	5	9
4	6	7	9	5	2	3	8	1
9	5	1	7	3	8	4	6	2
8	2	5	3	1	7	6	9	4
1	4	3	2	9	6	8	7	5
6	7	9	8	4	5	2	1	3
5	9	2	6	8	3	1	4	7
3	1	6	5	7	4	9	2	8
7	8	4	1	2	9	5	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ASSET-BACKED COMMERCIAL PAPER **Solution: 7 letters**

K	E	E	P	W	D	T	N	E	M	P	I	U	Q	E
S	N	X	V	O	E	N	H	A	N	C	E	D	Z	F
I	I	O	T	I	R	I	U	E	(D)	L	E	I	Y	Y
R	L	L	I	E	T	T	V	F	C	(E)	L	I	C	N
E	E	A	L	T	N	I	F	E	N	A	(B)	I	A	O
L	D	I	E	O	A	D	T	O	R	E	L	(T)	G	I
L	I	C	A	N	O	R	I	E	L	O	S	P	E	T
E	U	R	S	N	A	P	T	B	P	I	L	H	N	A
S	G	E	E	D	E	A	A	S	L	M	O	S	E	Z
I	T	M	E	R	L	V	S	C	I	E	O	A	R	I
T	S	M	F	L	I	D	L	O	A	N	T	C	A	T
L	U	O	O	E	N	E	R	U	T	X	I	M	T	R
U	R	C	C	O	R	P	O	R	A	T	E	M	E	O
M	T	E	B	A	N	K	E	S	R	E	V	I	D	M
S	R	E	Y	U	B	A	C	K	E	T	E	S	S	A

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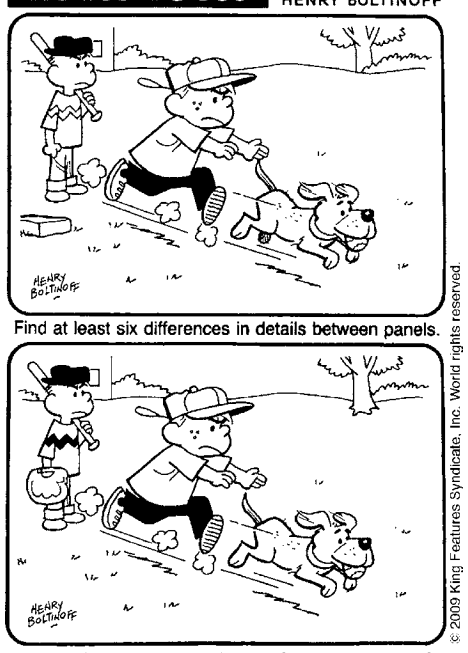
Administration, Amortization, Asset, Back, Bank, Bonds, Buyers, Cash, Collateralize, Commercial, Competitive, Corporate, Debt, Diverse, Enhanced, Equipment, Extendible, Fund, Generated, Guideline, Lease, Loan, Mixture, Multi-Seller, Note, Perform, Place, Policy, Pool, Portfolio, Receivable, Review, Risk, Tools, Trade, Trust, Yield

Yesterday's Answer: Mangrove

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 or 28, send $6.95 each (US funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate plus $3 postage for the first book order. $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Sweater stripe is black. 2. Glove has been added. 3. Base is missing. 4. Tree has been moved. 5. Dog's leg is not visible. 6. Dog's tail is positioned differently.

Wishing Well®

5	7	4	2	7	6	8	4	6	4	3	6	5
B	A	N	W	N	F	T	O	E	M	E	E	E
6	2	3	7	4	6	3	6	3	5	4	6	5
L	I	A	E	E	I	G	N	E	P	N	G	E
6	8	3	8	6	4	6	7	6	3	5	2	5
S	H	R	I	A	T	R	V	E	T	R	S	S
2	3	5	4	2	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	5
H	O	I	A	S	L	L	E	B	O	A	M	S
4	5	2	5	8	5	3	7	8	3	6	8	2
L	T	E	E	N	N	R	E	K	N	H	Y	O
7	5	7	8	7	4	6	2	7	2	4	7	8
N	T	T	O	F	O	I	N	U	E	C	L	U
4	6	2	4	6	8	2	8	2	7	2	7	7
K	G	W	S	H	N	E	G	L	D	L	A	Y

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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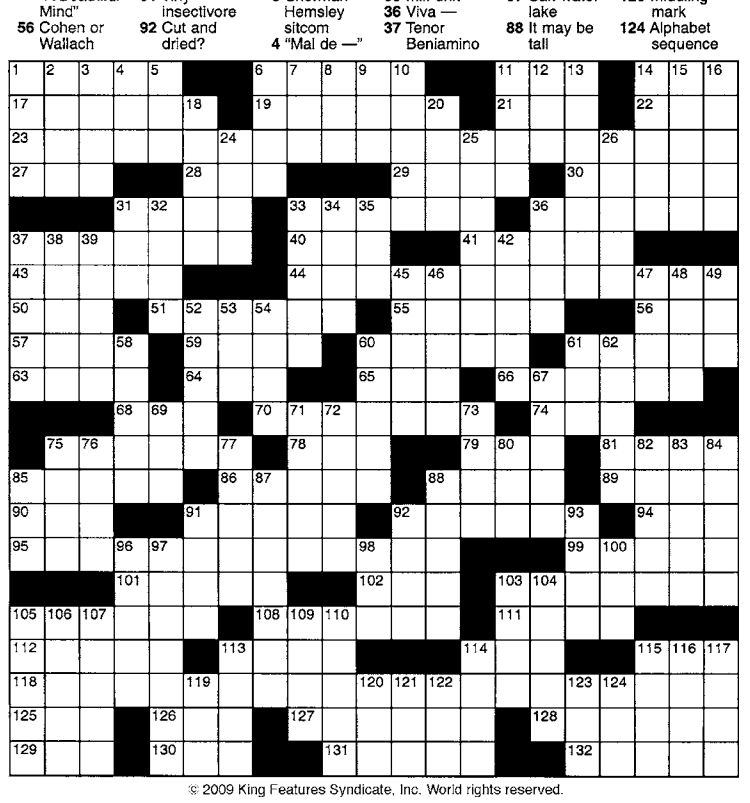
Super Crossword

RIGHT ON PEW

ACROSS
1 Guru
6 Outfielder Tony
11 Bother
14 Cen. segments
17 Regret
19 Bother
21 Lennon's widow
22 Velvet finish
23 Start of a remark
27 Cozy room
28 — Canals
29 "Heavens to Betsy!"
30 Cowboy star Lash
31 Spotted rodent
33 Deteriorate
36 More like a peacock
37 Lancelot's son
40 Fruity beverage
41 Newsstand
43 Castle or Dunne
44 Part 2 of remark
50 Rock band's stint
51 Composer Gustav
55 Russell of "A Beautiful Mind"
56 Cohen or Wallach
57 Balloon material?
59 "New Look" designer
60 — cog (blunder)
61 Swash-buckling novelist
63 Man, for one
64 GI's address
65 Exactly
66 Kevin of "SNL"
68 Service member?
70 Admin-istered anesthesia
74 Pangolin's morsel
75 Cavern
78 White House spokesman Fleischer
79 "— Doll" ('64 hit)
81 Harvest
85 Stiller's partner
86 Carl of "Cosmos"
88 Cruise
89 "The Egg —" ('47 film)
90 Symbol of sturdiness
91 Tiny insectivore
92 Cut and dried?
94 Deli delicacy
95 Part 3 of remark
99 Game name
101 Kidney-related
102 Corn portion
103 Ridiculous
105 Bloom or Danes
108 Hut
111 Oxidize
112 Boring tool
113 Zest
114 38 Down's symbol
115 Author Umberto
118 End of remark
125 Compass pt.
126 Subway unit
127 Disturbed the peace?
128 Singer Dion
129 Shorten a slat
130 Conceit
131 African antelope
132 Improve

DOWN
1 Runners carry it
2 Breaker
3 Sherman Hemsley sitcom
4 "Mal de —"
5 Caravan-sary
6 '70 Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young hit
7 Fond du —, WI
8 Fury
9 Large tub
10 McCourt's "Angela's —"
11 "Hopalong Cassidy" star
12 Important numero
13 Type of stew
14 Long for
15 Variety show
16 Villain's look
18 Puccini heroine
20 Aromatic plant
24 Warty one
25 Summer wear
26 Terse verse
31 Word form for "all"
32 "Excuse me"
33 Moisten the marigolds
34 Fragrance
35 Mil. unit
36 Viva —
37 Tenor Beniamino
38 Zodiac sign
39 Sanctioned
42 Dubuque denizen
45 Renown
46 Overused
47 San —, Italy
48 Tribe
49 — nibs
52 Roll with the punches
53 With it
54 "Gigi" author
58 Furnishings
60 "Don Giovanni" setting
61 Rowan or Rather
62 Marine leader?
67 Bald bird
69 Actress Hagen
71 — beaver
72 Texas talk
73 Cart
75 Equipment
76 Autumn implement
77 Actor Milo
80 Distress
82 Zhou —
83 Doll up
84 Elf
85 Janitor's item
87 Salt-water lake
88 It may be tall
91 "Auld Lang —"
92 ER exclamation
93 Emcee's site
96 Took a shot at
97 O'Hara's "From the —"
98 Itch
100 Big bang letters
103 — League
104 Poisonous plant
105 Java joints
106 Verdi's "— Miller"
107 Ford's predecessor
109 "— Off to Larry" ('61 tune)
110 Skirt shape
113 Cipher
114 Funnyman Foxx
115 Perry's victory site
116 Neighbor of Mass.
117 Had bills
119 Droop
120 Cambodia's Lon —
121 La-la lead-in
122 Coop critter
123 Middling mark
124 Alphabet sequence



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MOVIES: What sport was featured in the 2006 movie "Glory Road"?
2. PSYCHOLOGY: What kind of abnormal fear is experienced in the condition known as hemophobia?
3. MUSIC: Which well-known Christmas carol includes the syllables "fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la"?
4. GEOGRAPHY: Which two countries surround the Dead Sea?
5. ANIMALS: How many muscles does a cat have in each ear?
6. MEDICINE: Who was the pioneering doctor who was first to successfully use a partially artificial heart in a human being?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: In what year did U.S. Sen. John Glenn make an unsuccessful bid for the presidency?
8. CARS: Which car manufacturer had a hit with the 1955 Thunderbird?
9. GAMES: What color is the $5 bill in the classic game of Monopoly?
10. FOOD AND DRINK: What are the chief ingredients in quick Russian dressing?

Answers

1. Basketball
2. Fear of blood
3. "Deck the Halls"
4. Israel and Jordan
5. 32 muscles that control the outer ear
6. Dr. Michael DeBakey, left ventricular bypass pump in 1966
7. 1984
8. Ford
9. Pink
10. Mayonnaise and ketchup

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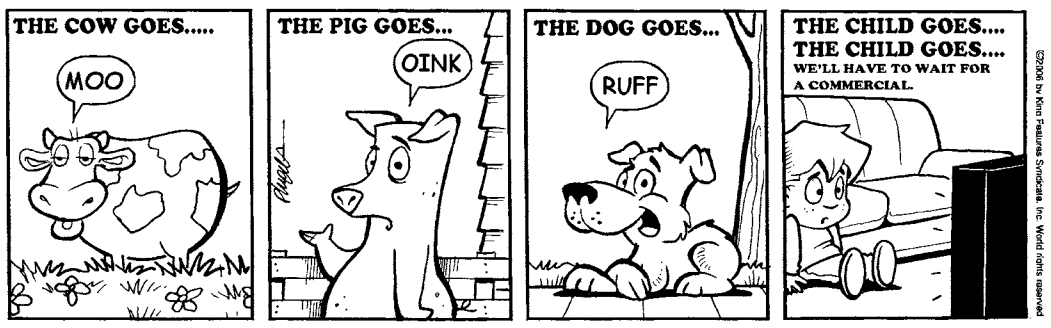
Saturday's Answers

POPEYE
Hey EISMAN
YA GOTTA BE KIDDIN', OLIVE!
NO, I'M NOT!
HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU WON'T TRY?
CUZ WOT YER SAYIN' IS REDICKERLIS!
NO, IT'S NOT!
WHY DON'T YOU THINK OF THE DOOR LITTLE WORM?
I DO...
...I THINK IT DUZ A WUNNERFUL JOB AS BAIT!
YOU BEAST!
YOU COULD AT LEAST GIVE IT A TRY!
I TELL YA IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, OLIVE...
...YA CAN'T TURN FISH INTA VEGEMATARIANS!
HMMPH!
www.kingfeatures.com

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats by Jeff Pickering

GRANDMA SAYS YOU SHOULD STOP USING NASTY LANGUAGE!!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH USING "THOSE" WORDS
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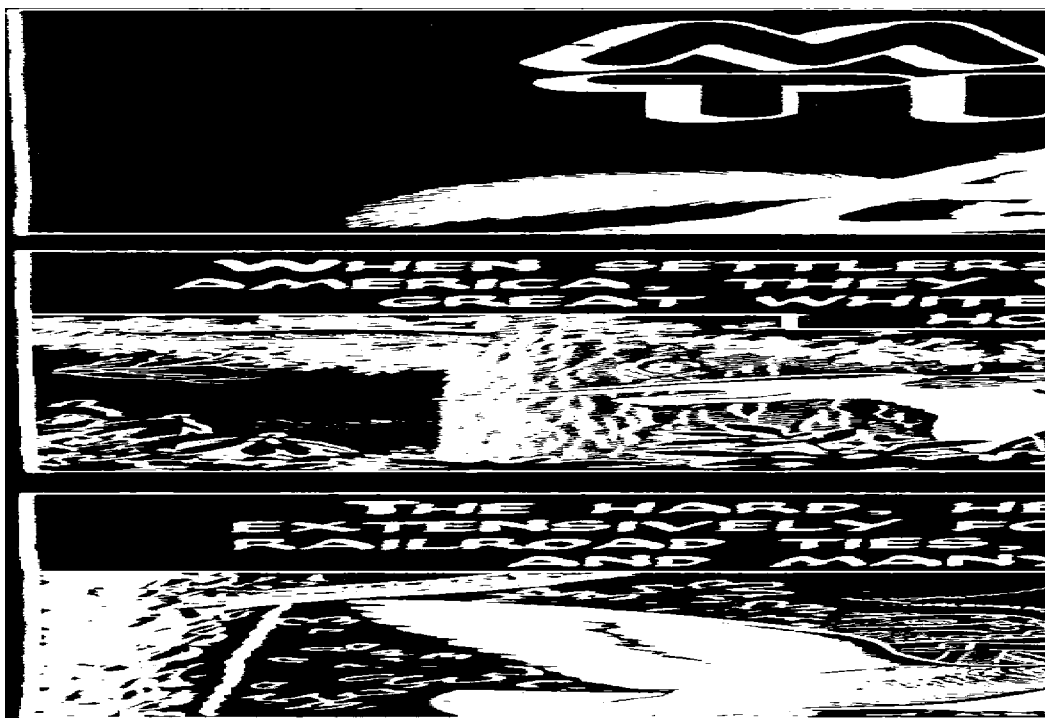
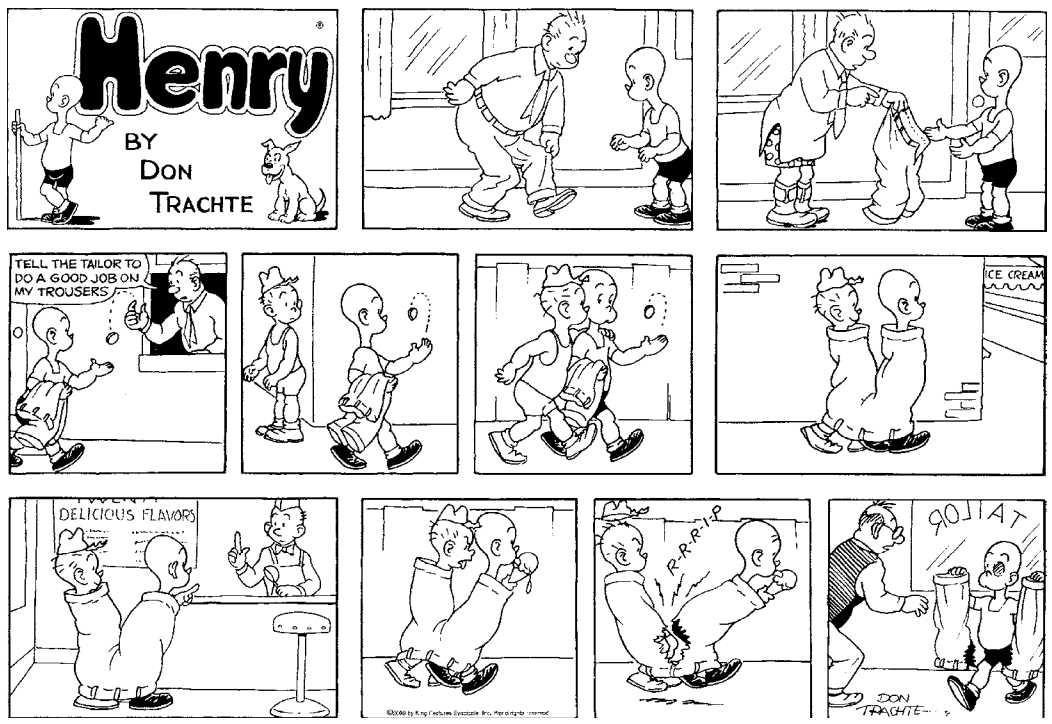
...AS LONG AS YOU USE THEM IN GOOD TASTE.





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CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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- Located in Garapan

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- Complete turnkey opportunity

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- Ability to meet weekly deadlines

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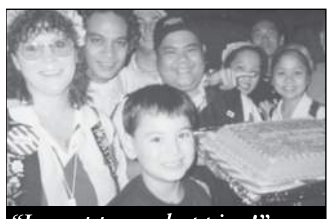

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Saipan Tribune

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

LIVE
LIVE DAY
LIVE DAY
LIVE

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CUC emergency extended anew
'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'
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235- NEWS

Bryant's 40 lead Lakers in Game 1 rout

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One step toward redemption, one step toward a ring.

Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers began the NBA finals with power and purpose.

Bryant, playing like a man possessed, scored 40 points and the Lakers, who have waited nearly one year for a chance to erase bitter memories of a Boston beatdown and a championship they felt belonged to them, pounded the Orlando Magic 100-75 in Game 1 on Thursday night.

This year, nothing short of a 15th title will do for the Lakers.

And with the sensational Bryant out front, they may be on their way.

Game 2 is Sunday night at star-studded Staples Center, where actors Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio and rapper Kanye West had front-row seats to see another virtuoso performance by Bryant, who scored 18 points in the third quarter as the Lakers opened a 26-point lead.

The last time the Lakers were seen in the finals, they were heading toward their locker room in Boston last June and summer break after being drubbed by 39 points in a series-ending Game 6 by the Celtics. The renewed rivalry between the league's superpowers never panned out.

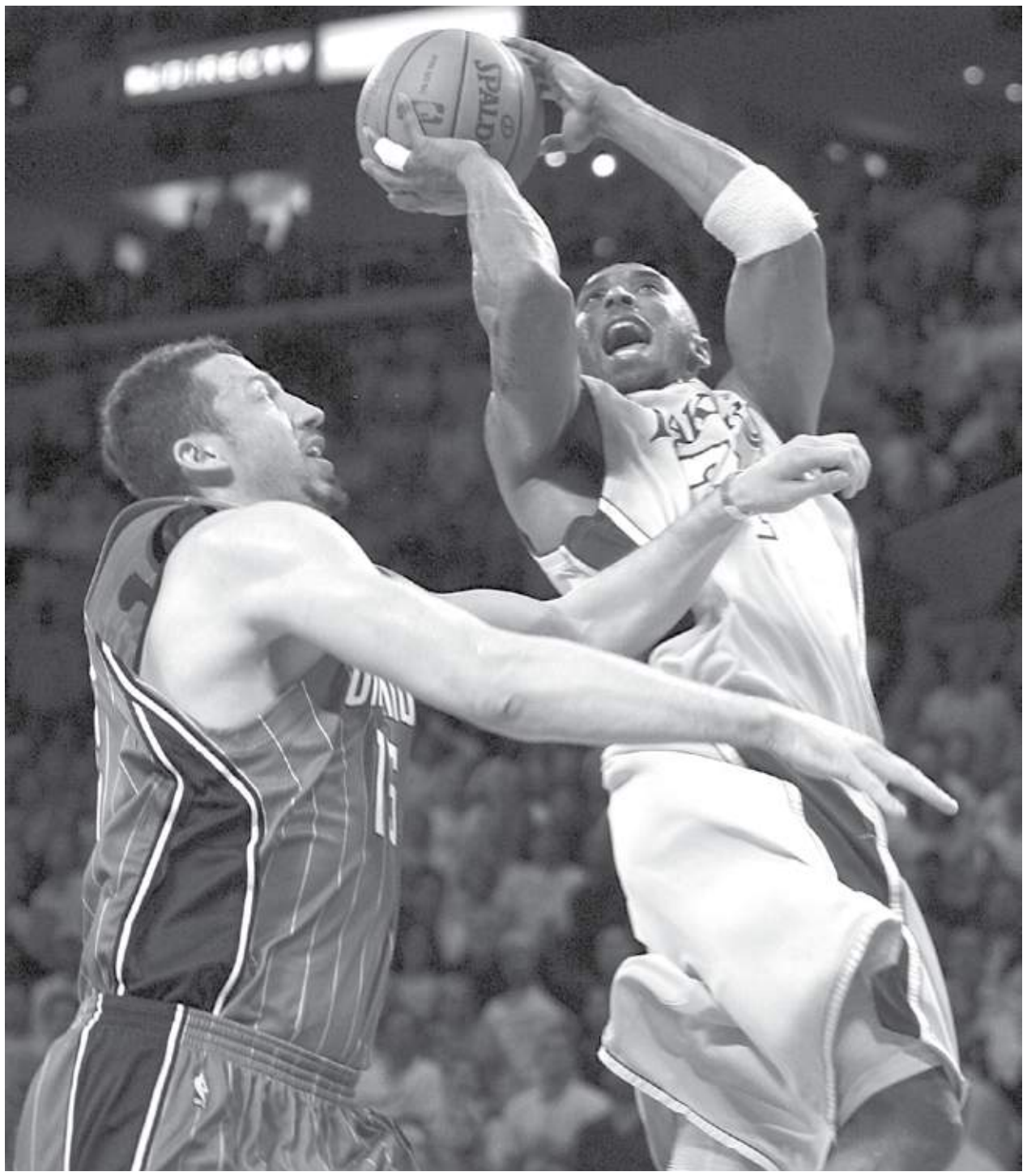
Bryant and his teammates have used that humiliation to motivate them all season and throughout these playoffs.

They are on a mission.

The Magic, who went 2-0 against the Lakers in the regular season, appeared a touch overwhelmed in their first finals appearance since 1995. Not even the return of All-Star point guard Jameer Nelson from a four-month layoff following shoulder surgery could help the Eastern Conference champions.

Orlando center Dwight Howard was engulfed by two and three Lakers every time he touched the ball and scored 12 points—10 on free throws—on just 1-of-6 shooting.

"We did a good job on him, but he'll be ready to go Game 2," Bryant said. "We worked very hard on the perimeter, keeping those guys out of rhythm, then we did a good job on him inside—giving him different looks."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant shoots as Orlando Magic's Hedo Turkoglu, of Turkey, defends during the second half of Game 1 of the NBA basketball finals Thursday, June 4, 2009, in Los Angeles.

And the Magic's outside shooters, so deadly while eliminating MVP LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the conference finals, were off the mark.

The Magic went just 8-of-23 on 3s and shot only 30 percent overall. They are facing some daunting odds, too.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson, seeking a record 10th title, is 43-0 in series in which his team wins Game 1.

On the dry-erase board in Orlando's locker room, coach Stan Van Gundy, in handwriting as neat as a schoolteacher's, devoted two sections on how he wanted his team to defend Bryant.

Nothing worked.

The self-proclaimed "Black Mamba" slithered around Magic defenders with ease. Bryant scored an effortless 18 points in the first half and then took over in the third quarter, scoring 18 of L.A.'s 29 points with an assortment of jumpers, fadeaways and layups.

"He was great. He was tremendous," said Van Gundy, who felt his team did a poor job defending the Lakers' pick and roll. "We were giving him too much space on his pull-up jumpers and he did a good job of attacking us. I know this: We are a lot better than we showed."

With the 24-second shot clock running down on one possession, he froze Mickael Pietrus with a head fake and then sliced between Howard and Rashard Lewis, who looked as if they might applaud him, too. Moments later, Bryant whipped a pass to teammate Trevor Ariza, who buried a 3-pointer to make it 80-58.

Bryant pumped both fists and yelled toward Ariza. But this time, Bryant, who can be demanding of those around him, was offering support. Accused of being aloof and selfish, he has become a better teammate and a better leader.

On the eve of Game 1, Bryant said winning his first title since teammate Shaquille O'Neal was traded in 2004 was not that important to him. Bryant bristled at the notion that he wouldn't have any of his three titles—from 2000-02—without Shaq as nonsense.

He says he wants No. 4 because it's the one in front of him.

And he's three wins from getting it.

Nelson sat the first quarter as he has throughout the playoffs, but Van Gundy started him in the second quarter and the healed guard made an immediate impact.

Nervously chomping on his black mouthpiece and darting as always, he made a sweet bounce pass to Marcin Gortat for a dunk on Orlando's first possession in the period. Nelson then set up Lewis for a 3 before making his first basket in four months on a short baseline jumper.

Nelson was back and the Magic, who dethroned the champion Celtics and toppled King James, looked as if they'd give the Lakers a run.

Bryant, though, outran them by himself.

Donald takes early lead at the Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Tiger Woods hardly missed a fairway, a big improvement. Luke Donald hardly missed a putt, and that was far more rewarding Thursday at the Memorial.

Donald set a tournament record by taking only 20 putts, which allowed him to tie a tournament record by opening with an 8-under 64 and a three-shot lead over a group that included Jim Furyk and Jason Day, who bogeyed his last two holes.

What seemed like a normal round at Muirfield Village turned extraordinary for Donald when he rapped in a 12-foot birdie putt from the fringe on the par-3 eighth hole, starting a streak of six consecutive birdies. He one-putted nine straight holes until a routine par on the 18th hole to match the lowest opening round at the Memorial.

"That doesn't happen very often," Donald said.

Even rarer is the sight of Woods spending so much time in the middle of the fairway.

Woods went with a slightly higher loft in his driver (10 degrees) and continued to make strides with his swing. He didn't miss a fairway until his 3-wood on the 18th hole deflected off a tree and landed in a bunker.

Scoring starts with the putter, however. Woods missed an 8-foot par putt on the final hole, and his other bogey came on a three-putt at the 13th. He had to settle for a 69, and few complaints.

"Everything felt pretty good to some degree," Woods said. "My swing felt good. Even my putting stroke felt good. A couple of bad pitches here and there, but overall, I felt like I controlled the ball well all day. With the wind blowing like this, you have to hit it flush. I did that all day. I didn't miss any shots."

Furyk, who won the Memorial seven years ago, birdied three of his final four holes for a 67. He was joined by Ted Purdy, Thomas Aiken and Day, the 21-year-old Australian who missed a playoff by one shot last week at Colonial. Day was at 7 under with three holes to play, but made bogey from the bunkers on his final two holes.

All of them were chasing Donald throughout a day that began cool and breezy and became warm and blustery.

Donald, who had only two sub-70 rounds at Muirfield Village, hit the opening tee shot and made bogey. He was headed for another bogey on the second hole until he chipped in from 80 feet short of the green.

"I guess all good rounds start with a bogey," he said. "It was just kind of a normal, everyday round until I got to the eighth and made a nice putt from the fringe. That kind of sparked off a run of six birdies. Just really got on a hot streak."

He made eight birdies over the last 11 holes. And his score was an eyesore for those teeing off in the afternoon.

"That's rough when you walk to the first tee and you're already eight behind," defending champion Kenny Perry. He finished the day eight shots behind after two late bogeys have him a 72.

Stewart Cink was among those at 68, while those at 69 with Woods included Mike Weir and British Amateur champion Reinier Saxton.

Donald felt putting was his weakness when he joined the PGA Tour. He has been working on fundamentals, and even switched to a mallet putter. He now is No. 1 in putting on the PGA Tour, and his success is no secret.

"You start putting well, and you start believing in yourself a little bit," Donald said. "Confidence on the greens breeds confidence. You keep making more putts. I think putting is very mental. Once you feel like you're a good putter, then it becomes easier."

Woods has a streak of 16 consecutive top 10s in stroke play, but scrutiny followed him home from The Players Championship last week because he played in the final group and couldn't break par.

He has said he is still making adjustments because of surgery last year on his left knee, and has said for the last month that he is still missing his power. But he is back to hitting balls on the range, which is where he could be found late Thursday afternoon. And he painted an optimistic view of his immediate future.

"The swing is starting to come around," he said. "I'm starting to feel good now. It's been a long time. I'm starting to get my power back. Everything is starting to come around now."

Even so, hitting 13 fairways can be misleading because Muirfield Village is known for its generous fairways. The key is putting on some of the purest greens on tour, and Donald had that part figured out just fine.

Big Unit reaches 300th win

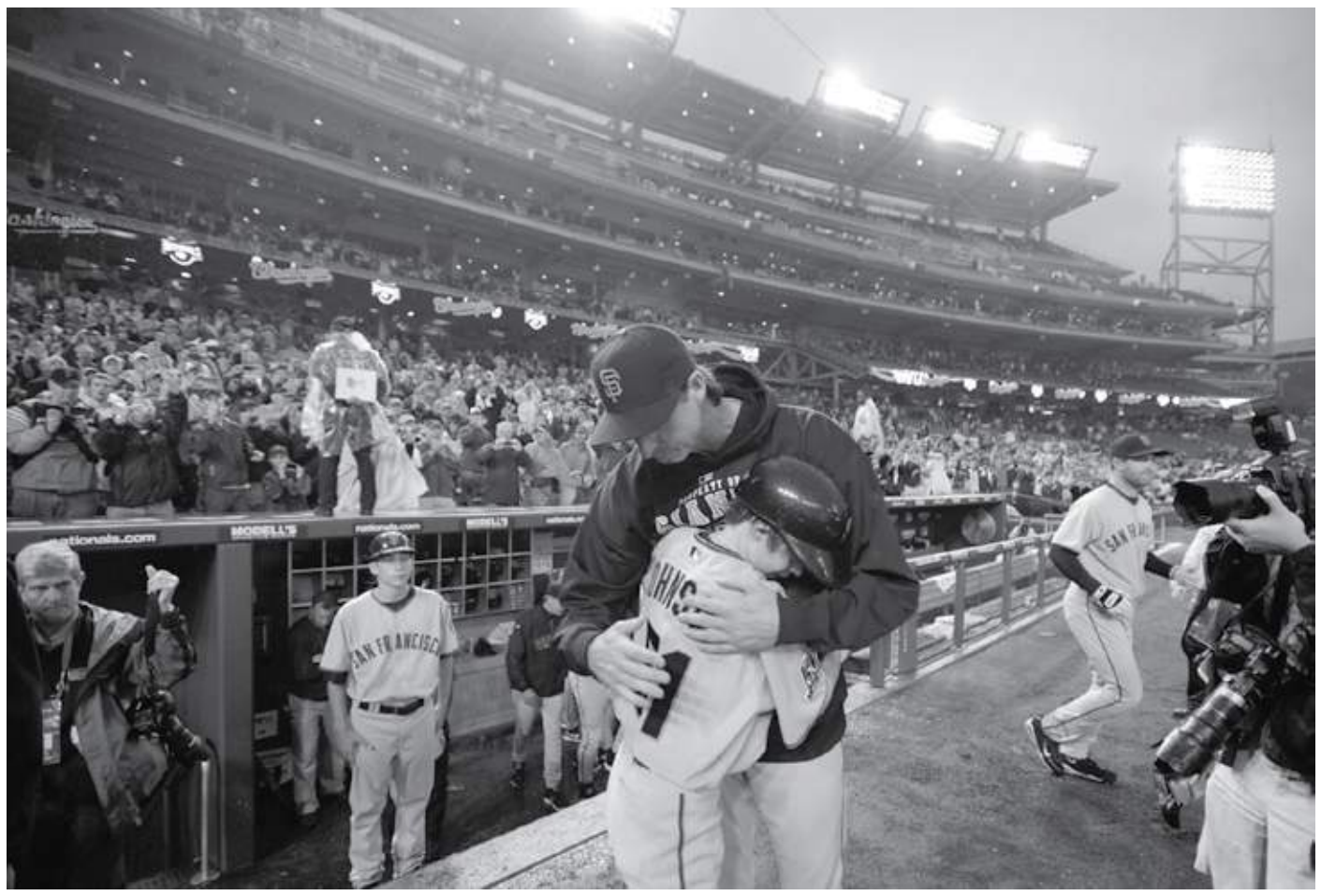
WASHINGTON (AP)—Randy Johnson became the 24th pitcher in Major League Baseball history to achieve 300 wins when he tossed two-hit ball over six innings in the San Francisco Giants' 5-1 victory over the Washington Nationals on Thursday.

In the first game of a doubleheader, Johnson allowed only an unearned run and threw 50 of his 78 pitches for strikes. He left leading 2-1 and nearly wound up with a no-decision. The Nationals loaded the bases with two outs in the eighth before Adam Dunn was called out on strikes.

San Francisco added three runs in the ninth.

Some of the few thousand fans who witnessed Johnson's victory chanted "Randy! Randy!" in the bottom of the ninth. When the game was over, he gave hugs to teenage son Tanner, who served as a Giants batboy, as well as his teammates. Johnson then tipped his hat to the cheering crowd before disappearing into the dugout.

The 45-year-old Johnson (5-4) is the second-oldest pitcher to reach the milestone. Knuckleballer Phil Niekro was 46 when he won his 300th with the New York Yankees in 1985.



AP

San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Randy Johnson hugs his son Tanner, front, after the Giants beat the Washington Nationals 5-1 for Johnson's 300th career win, in the first game of a baseball doubleheader, Thursday, June 4, 2009, in Washington.

Pirates 11, Mets 6

At Pittsburgh, Jason Jaramillo drove in a career-high four runs and prized prospect Andrew McCutchen had a productive major league debut as Pittsburgh completed a rain-shortened, three-game sweep of New York.

Ramon Vazquez went 4 for 4, Andy LaRoche had two RBIs and scored two runs, and McCutchen went 2 for 4 with three runs, a walk, an RBI and a stolen base as the Pirates roughed up Mets starter Mike Pelfrey (4-2), who allowed a career-worst nine runs in 3 2-3 innings.

Marlins 4, Brewers 3

At Miami, Josh Johnson hit a three-run shot for his first career homer and pitched into the eighth inning to lead Florida over Milwaukee.

John Baker had an RBI single in a four-run fourth for the Marlins, who took three of four from the NL Central leaders. Matt Lindstrom worked a scoreless ninth for his 11th save.

Cardinals 3, Reds 1

At St. Louis, Chris Carpenter pitched a three-hitter for his first complete game in more than two years and Albert Pujols took care of the offense with a two-run homer and RBI double as St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

Carpenter (4-0) needed just 95 pitches for his first complete game since Sept. 11, 2006, at Houston and 26th of his career. With the help of two double plays, he faced the minimum through 7 2-3 innings. Carpenter's ERA rose to 0.71 ERA.

Rockies 10, Astros 3

At Houston, Garrett Atkins broke out of a slump with two home runs as Colorado downed Houston to snap a four-game losing skid.

Ryan Spilborghs and Brad Hawpe added solo homers and Jason Hammel pitched seven effective innings for the Rockies, who avoided a sweep and stopped Houston's four-game winning streak.

Yankees 8, Rangers 6

At New York, Melky Cabrera hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning as the New York Yankees overcame yet another poor start by Wang Chien-Ming to beat the Texas Rangers.

The Yankees rallied from a 5-1 deficit and took two of three games from the AL West leaders.

Angels 6, Blue Jays 5

At Toronto, Howie Kendrick dashed home with some daring baserunning, scoring the go-ahead run on a ninth-inning double play to help Los Angeles win.

Justin Speier (2-1) got the win despite giving up a tying sacrifice fly in the eighth.

Twins 11, Indians 3

At Minneapolis, Jason Kubel hit a pair of three-run homers to back Scott Baker, who pitched seven effective innings for Minnesota in a victory over Cleveland.

Kubel's first homer capped a four-run first inning against Fausto Carmona (2-6). The cleanup batter followed an inning later with his second to give Minnesota a 7-0 lead. It was Kubel's fourth career two-homer game and second of the season. He also hit a pair on April 25 at Cleveland.

Red Sox 6, Tigers 3

At Detroit, Jason Bay's bases-loaded double keyed a six-run third inning as Boston completed a three-game sweep of Detroit.

Tim Wakefield (7-3) got the win, giving up three runs and five hits in 6 2-3 innings. The 42-year-old knuckleballer has beaten the Tigers 16 times, more than any other active pitcher.

Athletics 7, White Sox 0

At Chicago, Jason Giambi hit a three-run homer and Brett Anderson pitched seven impressive innings, sending Oakland to victory.

Aaron Cunningham added a two-run shot in the ninth for Oakland, which won the final three games of the four-game series.

Rays 3, Royals 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, B.J. Upton hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth and James Shields allowed only two runs over eight innings as Tampa Bay completed a three-game sweep of Kansas City.

Upton's two-out shot off Jamey Wright (0-2) made it 3-2. The homer helped the Rays overcome an 0-for-13 performance with runners in scoring position.

French final, Russian accent: Safina-Kuznetsova

PARIS (AP)—Dinara Safina cursed at herself in English, muttered to herself in Russian and generally carried on in much the same manner of older brother Marat Safin.

Safina's face bears a striking resemblance to Safin's, and she shares his broad shoulders, too. Both have been ranked No. 1—the only brother-sister combo to do so—and now Safina is one victory from joining Safin as a Grand Slam champion.

Yearning to justify her ranking and live up to her bloodlines by winning a major title, the top-seeded Safina overcame a poor start Thursday and held her temper in check enough to beat No. 20 Dominika Cibulkova 6-3, 6-3 and reach a second consecutive French Open final.

"I'm trying to control my emotions," Safina said. "I'm not playing my best, but still, it's not easy to beat me."

Not lately: Safina has won 20 of 21 matches since rising to No. 1 in April. The only woman to defeat her in that span, 2004 U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova, will get another crack at Safina on Saturday in the third all-Russian major final in tennis history.

The seventh-seeded Kuznetsova seemed well on her way to an easy semifinal victory, but she stumbled a bit before getting past No. 30 Samantha Stosur of Australia 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3.

"She's going to be favorite to win," Kuznetsova said, looking toward her match with Safina. "She's No. 1. She played an unbelievable season."

Safina holds a 7-4 career edge over Kuznetsova, including a win in last year's French Open semifinals. The two go back about a decade, to age 12 or 13, when Kuznetsova was living in St. Petersburg, and Safina in Moscow, where her father was the director of a tennis club and her mother was a coach who started Safin on his way to titles at the 2000 U.S. Open and 2005 Australian Open.

"I had no chance playing against her. I remember, I lose to her 6-1, 6-0 or something," Kuznetsova said. "She was very good then, and then her brother was huge. I was coming to Marat, 'Hey, I know your sister, Dinara. Can you give me autograph?'"

In the men's semifinals Friday, No. 2 Roger Federer plays No. 5 Juan Martin del Potro, and No. 12 Fernando Gonzalez meets No. 23 Robin Soderling.

Federer is trying to win his first French Open championship to complete a career Grand Slam and tie Pete Sampras' record of 14 major titles. Federer lost to Rafael Nadal in the past three finals at Roland Garros, but the Spaniard is no longer around this year after being upset by Soderling in the fourth round.

"At this stage, I expected I would be in semifinals," Federer said, "but I was not expecting Rafa to be out before the semifinals."

The women's semifinals figured to be mismatches: Neither Stosur nor Cibulkova had been past the fourth round at any Grand Slam tournament until this week—and neither has won a singles title on tour.

"I was just lost on the court today," Cibulkova said. "I didn't manage it well."

The 5-foot-11 1/2 Safina also has an 8 1/2-inch height advantage over Cibulkova, who surprised Maria Sharapova in the quarterfinals. Yet Cibulkova did well in long exchanges at the baseline, where much of the match took place: Each woman won 15 points that lasted at least 10 strokes.

When Cibulkova lured Safina forward with a drop shot, then flicked a cross-court backhand passing winner, the underdog led 2-0. In the next game, Safina missed a forehand and let out a bit of frustration by whacking a ball into the net. She would do worse later—after failing to win an argument with the chair umpire, Safina slammed a ball off the court, drawing whistles and jeers from the crowd. But it all seemed to get her pointed in the right direction.

Safina won five consecutive games to go ahead 5-2, and that was pretty much that.

"Once I was down I started to play better," Safina said, "but I think still I have to be much more dominant."

Her grunts growing louder and longer with each game, Safina double-faulted seven times and made more unforced errors than Cibulkova—marking many mistakes with some sort of yell.

At least twice, Safina said something in English that prompted an announcer on a European broadcast to apologize to listeners. When she plopped one backhand into the clay at her feet, Safina opted for sarcasm, saying: "That was a great shot."

She hit plenty of good ones, though, and finished with a 24-11 edge in winners, including one lob not all that high but high enough to clear Cibulkova that set up the break for a 3-2 lead in the second set.

Safina broke again in the last game, then covered those Safinesque shoulders of hers with a red Roland Garros towel and headed to the locker room, knowing there is more work to be done. She's won major semifinals before but never a major final, losing in straight sets to Ana Ivanovic at last year's French Open and to Serena Williams at this year's Australian Open.

Safina hears the voices of those—includingJustineHenin—who questioned the validity of a woman without a Grand Slam title topping the rankings.

"How much more proof I need to give the people that I think I deserve that spot?" Safina said.

One victory over old pal Kuznetsova on Saturday would do the trick.

86 to take part in Tinian Triathlon and Reef Swim

Eighty-six athletes are expected to take part in this morning's 10th Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim set on Tinian.

Of the 86, six will be homegrown athletes while the rest will be members of the KFC Triathlon Club of Japan.

The Marianas Visitors Authority said the triathlon will consist of a 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike ride, and 10-km run, while the reef swim will comprise of three courses—a 1.5 km, a 3 km, and a 4.5 km.

The awards banquet for the 10th Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim will be held on at 6pm tonight at Tinian's Taga Beach.

Last year, then Commonwealth Health Center anesthesiologist Eli Torgeson won the three-sport race by finishing in a sterling time of 2:27:19.

Three-time Tagaman champion Hideya Miyazuka came in second and crossed the finish line in 2:20:14.

Tinian transplant Ken Halliday, meanwhile, made the locals proud by coming in third in the event, tearing the tape in 2:42:06.

Saipan's Tyce Mister and Lewie Tenorio completed the Top 5, checking in at 2:50:49 and 2:53:50, respectively.

For the women, Eiko Moriya and Yoko Mineo finished 1-2 for the Land of the Rising Sun, completing the race in 3:14:14 and 3:25:29, respectively.

Saipan's Kimiko Hasegawa was third with a time of 3:25:32. Kanae Quinn came in fourth (3:30:52), while Keiko Nakakarumai came in fifth, clocking in at 3:42:49.

In the Reef Swim, Japanese finished 1-2-3 in all three categories of the event. Yoshinori Iwasa topped the 4.5-kilometer swim in 1:25:49, followed by Atsushi Hashimoto (1:28:16) and Hiroshi Osumi (1:28:19).

The 3-kilometer race was won by a female swimmer as Akiko Yamamoto reached the shore in 53:06. Satoru Seto came in second in 53:12, while another woman, Noroko Nagashima took third in a time of 55:28.

Ayaka Tsukanishi, meanwhile, was first in the 1.5-kilometer swim, emerging from the surf in 26:06. She was followed by Takashi Yamazaki (28:08) and Syoji Yamashita (31:21).

For more information about the 10th Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim, contact Frank Tudela of MVA at ftudela@mymarianas.com or 664-3200, Benedicta Borja of MVA Tinian at vborja@mymarianas.com or 433-9365, or KFC Triathlon Club of Japan at kfc-onihsi@gam.hi-ho.no.jp or (81) 428-31-4911. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRACKSTERS

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Kirk Schuler in the men's open singles finals to improve his head-to-head record against the former Drake University standout to 2-0.

Heo, who slipped past Schuler in the same event in the 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships, made it back-to-back after a 6-2, 7-5 victory in the finale. He moved into the title game after thumping CNMI coach Jeff Race in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-4 and Woo Suk Chang, 6-1, 6-0, in the quarterfinals.

Before his rematch against Schuler, Heo teamed up with Race to beat Peter Loyola and Schuler in the men's open doubles of the DFS netfest.

The NMASA Student Athletes of the Month awards went to Hopwood Junior High School students Brandon Phillip and Rachel Abrams.

Phillip gave Hopwood four gold medals after prevailing in the 100m and 200m races and in the long jump. His time of 26.21 seconds in the 200m run is a new All Schools record. Phillip won his fourth gold medal after anchoring Hopwood's 4x100m relay team to a first place finish.

Abrams duplicated Phillip's gold medal haul. She ruled the 100m and 200m races and helped Hopwood win gold medals in the 4x100m and 4x400m relay runs. Both Phillip and Abrams were selected Most Outstanding Athletes in the U14 division of the All Schools meet.

Bennett, Heo, Phillip, and Abrams are now eligible for the 2009 NMASA Athletes of the Year plums.

BALAKRISHNA

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part of a 48-man group from South Korea that took part in the Inaugural Friendly Golf Tournament.

Mode Tour also gave out minor awards to Ung Sik Kim (longest drive, 280 yards), Gae Sung Park (nearest to the pin, 1.2 meters, Soo Taek Han (most birdies, two), Dong In Jang (most pars, nine), Joo Min Jun (most bogeys, 12), and Jong Man Seo (highest score, 130 gross).

No less than Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio graced the awards ceremony held Saturday evening at the PIC Saipan's Charley's Cabaret.

He was joined by executives from Mode Tour, PIC Saipan, as well as VIPs from the event's other sponsors Asiana Airlines and Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Tenorio greeted the Korean golfers in attendance in their native tongue and thanked them for picking Saipan as their golfing destination.

Through a translator, the MVA official said the CNMI is hoping that Korean golfers will become its newest growth market.

He told visitors to spread the word that Saipan can be a major golf destination what with the multi-million dollar investment of Kumho Asiana on its sprawling Laolao Bay Golf Resort property in Kagman.

AKIMARU

From Page 28

swimmer's two other gold medals came from the 50m (37.48) and 100m (1:22.60) freestyle event. He just missed Yanai's 50m freestyle record by .01 of a second and Toda's mark in the 100m freestyle swim by .02 of a second.

The SSC swimmer also went home with one silver and one bronze to bring his team's total to 15 medals. Akimaru finished second to Toda in the 50m breaststroke after clocking in at 50.07 second against the latter's 49.33 seconds. Akimura then was ranked third in the 200m freestyle event, recording 3:01.54.

Grace Kimball had the most medals for SSC with seven, getting two silver and five bronze. Kimball finished second in the girls' 13 to 14 200m (2:27.56) and 800m (11:21.31) freestyle swims and placed third in the 100m breaststroke (1:33.79), 100m backstroke (1:28.34), and 100m (1:09.79), 400m (5:17.07), and 50m (30.69) freestyle events.

Grace's brother, Andrew, brought home one silver and one bronze after a runner-up finish in the 1,500m freestyle (21:58.09) and a third place swim in the 400m (5:28.68) freestyle in the boys' 11 to 12 age group.

Bryce Daly won only one medal, but struck gold in the boys' 9 to 10 50m freestyle. He completed the race in 34.32 seconds to down Tarakito's Justin Fell (34.83), Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanai (34.98), Tsunami Guam's Kai Aricayos (35.03), Manukai's Tommy Imazu (36.90), Typhoon's Alex Jackson (37.51), Tarakito's Diego Shimizu (37.92), and Tsunami Saipan's Takumi Sugie (38.92).

MP UNITED

From Page 28

posed of Joon Lee, Bo Barry, R.J. Knecht, Nuri Gutzwiller-Malakut, Evert Van Der Maas, Jasper Van Der Maas, Jehn Joyner, Dakota Hall, Jack Sharer, Angelo Jones, and Enrico Del Rosario.

The visitors, who were invited to Japan by Vivid Blue Football Club, prevailed in their first three games despite playing in unfamiliar territory.

According to MP United's Sue Knecht, the fields in Japan are a bit different than the surface on Saipan, as they are mostly made up of a small smooth gravel surface. This surface allows the ball to bounce differently and requires more ball control for passing and dribbling. MP United played one more game in the afternoon against skillful players in the 14 to 15 age group and lost.

The early morning part of the Typhoon's first day on Japan (May 23), was spent learning the cultures in the Land of the Rising Sun.

The visitors watched a drum performance and festival, known as Imazu and were also treated to a lunch of rice balls, soup, stir fry noodles, vegetable, tofu, chicken, and beef, and yakitori.

Later in the evening, the MP United delegation went to warehouses where the harbor fish markets open with fresh catch every morning as early as 4am. The visitors also got to showcase their ukelele playing talents to locals and tourists in a restaurant near the warehouses.

MP United players went back to the playing field Sunday and slugged it out with their foes in a rain-soaked gravel surface at Ashitaka Technical College and lost, 0-1, on an own goal

"The Sunday morning's game was probably the most fun for our boys, as they really enjoyed playing in the rain and the challenge from the combination of tough girls high school and women's team players," Knecht said.

The IT&E backed MP United had another game scheduled that day, but was cancelled due to rain, allowing the visitors more time to explore the beauty of the city.

"The group headed to Hakone and had a cable car ropeway ride to the peak of Mt. Owakudani to experience the volcanic sulfur springs. The boys were treated to the area's famous hard-boiled eggs. The eggs were boiled in the sulfur springs at 89 degrees Celsius, which caused them to turn solid black in about 60 seconds. The taste was very much the same, but they were very hot to touch," Knecht said.

Before they left Japan Monday afternoon, the Typhoons took a few hours of futsal lessons from Vivid Blue Football Club owner Sachi Tahara.

"The facility was located in a rural neighborhood outside the city and was surrounded by beautiful picturesque views of rice fields and mountain backdrops," Knecht said.

"MP United players had an exciting experience, not only because of the competitions, but also because of the opportunities to engage in the various cultural aspects of Japan," she added.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	22	.593	
New York	32	22	.593	
Toronto	30	26	.536	3
Tampa Bay	28	28	.500	5
Baltimore	24	30	.444	8

Central Division

Detroit	28	24	.538	
Minnesota	27	28	.491	2Ω
Chicago	25	28	.472	3Ω
Kansas City	23	30	.434	5Ω
Cleveland	23	33	.411	7

West Division

Texas	31	22	.585	
Los Angeles	27	25	.519	3Ω
Seattle	26	28	.481	5Ω
Oakland	22	30	.423	8Ω

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	32	20	.615	–
New York	28	24	.538	4
Atlanta	26	26	.500	6
Florida	26	29	.473	7 1/2
Washington	14	38	.269	18

Central Division

Milwaukee	31	23	.574	–
St. Louis	31	23	.574	–
Cincinnati	28	25	.528	2 1/2
Chicago	26	25	.510	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	25	28	.472	5 1/2
Houston	23	29	.442	7

West Division

Los Angeles	37	19	.661	–
San Francisco	27	25	.519	8
San Diego	25	28	.472	10 1/2
Arizona	23	31	.426	13
Colorado	21	32	.396	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 11, N.Y. Mets 6
San Francisco 5, Washington 1, 1st game
San Francisco 4, Washington 1, 6 innings, 2nd game
Florida 4, Milwaukee 3
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta, ppd., rain
Colorado 10, Houston 3
St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 1
Philadelphia 3, L.A. Dodgers 0
L.A. Angels 6, Toronto 5
Boston 6, Detroit 3
N.Y. Yankees 8, Texas 6
Minnesota 11, Cleveland 3
Oakland 7, Chicago White Sox 0
Tampa Bay 3, Kansas City 2

THE MEMORIAL SCORES

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)–Scores Thursday from The Memorial, a $6 million US PGA Tour event at 7,366-yard, par-72 Muirfield Village Golf Club:

FIRST ROUND

Luke Donald	34-30–64
Jim Furyk	33-34–67
Ted Purdy	32-35–67
Jason Day	31-36–67
Thomas Aiken	34-33–67
Steve Marino	34-34–68
Stewart Cink	35-33–68
Mark Wilson	34-34–68
Troy Matteson	35-34–69
Johnson Wagner	31-38–69
Kevin Sutherland	35-34–69
Nicholas Thompson	36-33–69
Rod Pampling	35-34–69
Tiger Woods	33-36–69
Mike Weir	33-36–69
Jonathan Byrd	34-35–69
Reinier Saxton	33-36–69
Steve Stricker	35-35–70
Will MacKenzie	36-34–70
Ernie Els	37-33–70
Ryuji Imada	34-36–70
Bubba Watson	34-37–71
David Duval	31-40–71
John Senden	32-39–71
Charley Hoffman	36-35–71
Camilo Villegas	34-37–71
Chez Reavie	36-35–71
Martin Kaymer	36-35–71
Kevin Na	35-36–71
Zach Johnson	36-35–71
Ben Curtis	34-37–71
Tom Lehman	34-37–71
Tom Pernice, Jr.	35-36–71
Matt Bettencourt	34-37–71
Jerry Kelly	36-36–72
Robert Allenby	37-35–72
Davis Love III	38-34–72
Geoff Ogilvy	37-35–72
Stuart Appleby	37-35–72
Mark Calcavecchia	36-36–72
Erik Compton	37-35–72
Michael Letzig	37-35–72
Kenny Perry	36-36–72
Daniel Chopra	36-36–72
Marc Turnesa	37-35–72
Lee Janzen	34-38–72
Charl Schwartzel	34-38–72
Rocco Mediate	37-36–73
Paul Casey	36-37–73
Y.E. Yang	36-37–73
Todd Hamilton	37-36–73
Carl Pettersson	35-38–73
Steve Flesch	36-37–73
D.J. Trahan	34-39–73
Mathew Goggin	34-39–73
James Nitties	37-36–73
Webb Simpson	37-36–73
K.J. Choi	35-38–73
Dustin Johnson	34-39–73
Nick Watney	34-39–73
Chris DiMarco	37-36–73
Shaun Micheel	36-37–73
Nick O'Hern	35-38–73
Bart Bryant	36-37–73
Matt Kuchar	36-37–73
Alex Cejka	37-36–73
Jose Maria Olazabal	37-37–74
Hunter Mahan	35-39–74
Scott McCarron	37-37–74
Richard Sterne	35-39–74
Brett Quigley	33-41–74
Bill Haas	37-37–74
Billy Mayfair	35-39–74
Greg Owen	38-36–74
Marc Leishman	37-37–74
Jeff Quinney	38-37–75
Lucas Glover	38-37–75
Padraig Harrington	36-39–75
Vijay Singh	36-39–75
John Mallinger	38-37–75
Ryan Moore	37-38–75
Tim Herron	36-39–75
Ian Poulter	36-39–75
Charles Howell III	39-36–75
Woody Austin	35-40–75
Mark Brooks	38-37–75
D.A. Points	38-37–75
Jeff Klauk	37-39–76
Billy Andrade	38-38–76
George McNeill	37-39–76
Steve Lowery	37-39–76
Tim Petrovic	38-38–76
Ken Duke	39-37–76
Jeff Overton	36-40–76
Sean O'Hair	39-37–76
Richard S. Johnson	37-39–76
Fredrik Jacobson	38-39–77
Jason Dufner	38-39–77
Peter Lonard	41-36–77
Charles Warren	41-36–77
Adam Scott	38-39–77
James Driscoll	34-43–77
Chris Stroud	37-40–77
James Kamte	38-39–77
Kevin Streelman	37-40–77
Brian Davis	38-40–78
Aaron Baddeley	38-41–79
Danny Lee	40-39–79
Cliff Kresge	42-37–79
Scott Piercy	37-42–79
Chris Wilson	38-41–79
John Rollins	43-37–80
Ryan Palmer	40-40–80
Justin Rose	41-39–80
Jesper Parnevik	40-41–81
Bo Van Pelt	40-41–81
Parker McLachlin	39-42–81
J.B. Holmes	40-42–82
Brad Faxon	41-42–83
Kevin Chappell	42-44–86

By The Associated Press

Big Unit reaches 300th win

Randy Johnson became the 24th pitcher in Major League Baseball history to achieve 300 wins when he tossed two-hit ball over six innings in the San Francisco Giants' 5-1 victory over the Washington Nationals on Thursday. **27**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bryant's 40 lead Lakers in Game 1 rout

One step toward redemption, one step toward a ring. Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers began the NBA finals with power and purpose. **25**

Tracksters dominate May awardees

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three participants in the 2009 All Schools Track and Field Championships were named top performers for May, while CNMI junior player Ji Hoon Heo also made the list to prevent a tracksters sweep.

Micronesia's fastest woman Yvonne Bennett was awarded the NMASA Female Athlete of the Month (May) after claiming five medals from last month's AllSchools trackfest. She won in the 100m, 200m, and 400m individual races and led Kagman High School to first place finishes in the 4x100m and 4x400m relay runs.

Bennett was also named the Most Oustanding Female Athlete in the girls' 18-and-under division of the All Schools meet during a brief awards ceremony at the Oleai Sports Complex last week.

Heo took the NMASA Male Athlete of the Month after ruling two competitions in the 2009 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships.

The 17-year-old netter downed

See TRACKSTERS on Page 27

Phillip

Bennett

Akimaru crushes 30-year swim record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru joined an elite company of record holders in the boys' 8-and-under division following his 43.06 seconds time in the 50m butterfly event in last weekend's 2009 Guam Championships at the Agatna Swimming Pool.

Akimaru's time shattered the 30-year record (43.74 seconds) of Jonathan Sakovich set on April 5, 1979. The SSC swimmer now joins Sakovich, and Tsunami Saipan's Ryosei Toda, Hiroto Yanai, and Kensuke Kimura in the list of record holders in the boys' 8-and-under age group.

Akimaru's time did not only put him in the record books, but also gave him one of his three gold medals in the Guam meet. The 8-year-old

See AKIMARU on Page 27

DAN KIMBALL

Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru, seen here competing in the 100m backstroke during the SSC Heptathlon Meet early this year, set a new record in the 50m butterfly after joining last weekend's 2009 Guam Championships at the Agatna Swimming Pool.

Balakrishna tops Friendly Golf Tournament

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Islands Club F&B director Steve Balakrishna topped the Inaugural Friendly Golf Tournament organized by Mode Tour last Saturday.

Balakrishna won the overall championship after taming the greens and fairways of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort with the day's best gross score of 79.

Aside from registering the lowest gross, Balakrishna also finished first in the local golfer category, which earned him a Saipan-Guam roundtrip ticket courtesy of Freedom Air.

The six-handicapper remained humble in victory and said the latest in a string of victories in the local greens was again due to luck.

Balakrishna, who considers Saipan his home, has been playing the sport of golf for almost 20 years.

Jae Ho Jun finished second to the affable PIC Saipan executive in the local division, winning the low net with his 68. Sang Soon Lim was runner-up in the low net category with his 71.

In the Korean division, Sang Yeob Hwang was without peer in the lowest gross category with his 82. Jung Hwan Kim was first in the low net with his 79, while Duk Hyung Choi finished second with his 84.

Hwang, Kim, and Choi were

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Pacific Islands Club F&B director Steve Balakrishna, center, poses with PIC Korea chief representative J.S. Cha, right, and Mode Tour CEO Hong Ki Chung while receiving his championship award after topping last Saturday's Inaugural Friendly Golf Tournament.

MARK RABAGO

MP United shares Japan trip experience

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United U14 Team came to Japan to play a couple of games and got what it wanted with a few more extra experiences that made the trip a memorable one.

The Typhoons, who left Saipan on May 22, competed in six games (with one exhibition match) in Numazu City for two days and won three. The team was com-

See MP UNITED on Page 27

Members of MP United U14 Team pose with Japanese players and coaches before their game in Numazu City, Japan, late last month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO